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ABSTRACT

The Grossmont and Cuyamaca Community College Districts (GCCCD) Grapevine is a triannual newsletter free for retirees of the Colleges. Volume 6 of the bulletin includes the establishment of an on-line newsletter; self-sufficiency aims of a new district plan at Cuyamaca College; and a discussion of a dispute between GCCCD's chancellor and faculty regarding union labor charges. Volume 7 includes articles that discuss: Grossmont College's 35th; agreement between the faculty union and district representatives; and the retirement of GCCCD's chancellor. Volume 8 includes articles that discuss: information regarding retired faculty member's status and reidence; the success of the retiree banquet; and the new academic calendar. (AS)

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ED 430 588

GCCCD Grapevine

Volumes 6-8, 1996-98

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

JC 990 222

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 6, Number 1 April, 1996

Stop at the Top

Grossmont College's front entrance no longer is just the front entrance. It's been expanded and upgraded to be the Grossmont College Transportation Facility, part of the county's plan for a regional network of multi-model transportation centers. Also called "The Stop at the Top," it's serving bus patrons, bicyclists and dial-a-ride passengers, and will also serve transfer patrons from the Grossmont and Santee Trolley centers. The expanded facility, funded by the county, went into service in January.

Board OKs Arms for District Officers

Firearms will be carried by District Public Safety officers, probably in the fall, following an affirmative vote by the District Governing Board on April 2.

The question of arming campus security personnel had been discussed for months before the Board approved the move. Only POST—Police Officer Standards and Training—certified personnel will be hired as District Public Safety officers, the Board said. Already some of the present campus police force are POST certified; others will come from other police and law enforcement agencies. The total number of officers to begin with, will be five. POST certification of individuals makes the District a POST agency.

The annual cost to the District of POST certification will be about $33,000. In addition, the District will require and fund ongoing progressive training—beyond POST—such as quarterly firearms training, or any training which will minimize the potential need for the use of firearms.

One policy mandated by the Board is that District administrative procedures for the use of firearms must be at least as restrictive as relevant sections of The San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the City of San Diego Police Department, and surrounding municipal police department procedures.

In addition to the five officers, there will be two supervisors; Chief Joel Javines will be one. The 18 brown-uniformed community service officers, now on the rolls will be retained according to Jim Austin, District Vice Chancellor for Business. They will continue to handle such chores as monitoring campus parking.

When the new plan is in effect, at least one Public Safety officer will be on each campus while classes are in session, Austin said. During nonclass times, at least one officer will be on duty to cover both campuses. The officers will operate out of the District Public Safety Office, and will not be split formally between Grossmont and Cuyamaca.

Grapevine Now On-line

by Tom Scanlan

Our newsletter went on-line as an interactive publication this February 26. It's located at the GCCCD website (http://www.gcccd.cc.ca.us/) under Grossmont College, Publications. Denis Angleton, a SDSU graduate student serving as GCCCD's web author, working with materials provided by Sirkka Huovila (*Grapevine* Desktop Production and Layout), helped Grossmont College become the first community college in California to have their retiree newsletter on-line.

How do I know that we're the first? I searched an on-line listing of all California community colleges. Of the 107 community colleges in this state, only 33 were listed as having websites. I paid a quick visit to each. Many were still primitive and "under construction", only a few had faculty pages, and very few had a publications section. Of those showing publications (Palomar College has a snazzy campus newsletter with an archive of previous editions), only Grossmont College has a retirement newsletter. I'd say that Grossmont College has one of the more extensive and sophisticated websites of all the California community colleges, and one that surpasses some of the four-year college and university websites.

Among other internet developments, the number of faculty with home-pages at GCCCD's website has increased since last October from 20 to 50, including 13 new home-pages at Cuyamaca College. 72 faculty and staff now also have campus e-mail addresses, all listed on the GCCCD website under Faculty on the Grossmont page, where you'll also find a complete telephone directory for all college faculty and staff. In addition, the college is looking for a dial-up provider that can provide low cost internet access to our students. The college is also searching for a new webmaster. Denis Angleton was hired away from us shortly after he completed our newsletter site.

Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

I can't remember—if I ever knew—who said the only constant in life is change, but I think he or she hit it right on the nose.

As I write this, the Governing Board and District officials are deciding whether to change the District name. Perhaps by the time you read this we may be getting used to a new name.

If it occurs, the name change will be the second for the District; the first came when Cuyamaca College was started and became part of the name. The current change, if it's made, may be the last; institutions much older than the district have existed without ever changing their names. But nobody knows what future factors will prompt consideration of another name change.

More interesting are personnel changes, and the question of what effect they have on the colleges. Since I retired six years ago, almost all occupants of the top District administration and college jobs have changed.

What started me thinking about change was the realization that two dozen certificated and classified staff members will have given up full-time chores in 1995 and the first half of 1996.

All the departures have, I think, been voluntary, some eagerly taken. So, we're not talking about shaken morale, such as must have been the case among AT&T employees who were not listed among the 40,000 slated for a pink slip.

More directly, how has the departure of administrative, support, and teaching staff members affected the work of the colleges?

I've decided with some qualifiers, that the effect on the institutions isn't great. The first qualifier is that the departing personnel are replaced, instead of leaving the post vacant, with work spread over the remaining personnel in a department. The other qualifier is that a college cannot already be at a low point because of incompetent and/or ineffective personnel among those retiring. So far as I know that hasn't been the situation at our colleges.

I think there must be momentary, minor tremors when a sizable number leave over a relatively short period. But they wouldn't register very high on an academic Richter scale. The colleges very quickly regain their

(see EDITOR on page 5)

Six More Retire

At the end of 1995, and in early 1996, six more members of the GCCCD family moved from active to retired status. In addition to those listed in the November 1995 Grapevine, retirees include Mike Valverde, District Purchasing Supervisor, who stepped out December 31, 1995; Mary Moreau, Administrative Secretary at Cuyamaca and Paul Rodriguez, senior Grounds Maintenance Worker at Grossmont, who both retired in January. Retiring in March were Drafton Dunlap, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor at Grossmont, and Gene Murray, Director of Accounting for the District. Chris Bona, who handled employee benefits for the District, retired April 1.

Biblio-Files

by Tom Scanlan

The two novels reviewed in this issue each focus on something we can all relate to . . . familial relationships and how young people from very different cultures and economic backgrounds deal with coming of age, going off to college and the prospect of marriage.

My oldest daughter, Karen, put me on to one of them, Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy, published in 1993. It's been on my list of favorite books ever since. It's a huge novel of 1350 pages which I'd have been totally intimidated by if I'd seen it while browsing in a library or bookstore. Don't be. By the time you finish it, you'll wish the book were longer.

The story takes place in India, shortly after World War II. India had finally gained its independence from Great Britain. Amidst this turbulence, the efforts of a mother to find her daughter a suitable husband are complicated by the daughter's coming of age among college students who no longer agree with many of the traditional Indian customs. There are further complications because of caste and religious differences among her various friends and suitors. You'll learn a great deal about India, its history, its politics and its people while enjoying this novel. I found myself totally immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of this country while becoming acquainted with

(see BIBLIO-FILES on page 5)

Send Us Your E-Mail Address

A listing of all known GCCCD retiree e-mail addresses will be published in the next issue of *Grapevine* and in subsequent Retiree Directories. If you would like your e-mail address included in these lists, please e-mail your e-mail address to:

tscanlan@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us

Enter the word RETIREE as the subject. Also, if any of you have your own home-pages on the web and would like other retirees to "stop by", send your URL (Uniform Resource Locator, i.e., your web address) along, as well.

Following is a very partial listing of retirees' e-mail addresses:

Don Anderson
danderso@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us
Barbara and Lee Roper
b_roper@msn.com
Gay Russell
gmruss@theriver.com
Joan and Don Scouller
DScouller@aol.com
Virginia and Bob Steinbach
robert9510@aol.com

There are probably dozens more of you who are now connected, so help us stay in touch by sending in that address.

The Grapevine is a free newsletter for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly.

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Pat Higgins

Desktop Production and Layout
Sirkka Hurovitz

Photography
John Dixon

Biblio-Files Column
Tom Scanlan

To submit news items, articles or photographs of interest to GCCCD retirees, mail them to:

The Grapevine
Grossmont College
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

The Grapevine is published in November, April and July. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.

Riddell's Passing a Blow to Her Colleagues

A blow to Grossmont College people, particularly to her faculty colleagues, was the death in December of Dr. Jeanne Riddell, professor of psychology for 20 years.

The breast cancer which eventually took her life was diagnosed three years ago, and radiation and chemotherapy treatments appeared to halt the cancer's progress. Then last summer, about 2½ years later, the cancer reappeared. Treatment this time was ineffective, and the cancer spread to her liver, ending her life soon after.

Jeanne Riddell

Jeanne grew up in Palm Desert, where her mother was bookstore manager at the College of the Desert. She attended San Diego State University, then headed east to the University of New Hampshire, where she got her master's and doctoral degrees. When she returned to the West, she joined the Grossmont College faculty in 1975.

As a teacher, Jeanne was highly regarded by her students, not only for her classroom competence, but also for the time she spent out of class helping those who needed individual attention. Her faculty colleagues regarded her highly, not only as an instructor, but also for her involvement in the Faculty Senate, and as chair of her department.

One of her friends has described her as a "born traveler," and in the mid-80s she accepted a Department of Defense job to teach American students in Germany. During her years in Germany she traveled all over Europe, mostly in Eastern European countries, though she was particularly fond of the mountains of Bavaria and the Swiss Alps.

She had taken unpaid leave from Grossmont so she could go to Germany. When GC indicated it was time for her to return and resume teaching here, she came home.

Despite the cancer, Jeanne never quit on life. Ten days before she died she invited 20 of her friends to a party they'll never forget. All the guests went riding in hot-air balloons. So did she.

Foundation Prospers, Wants More Members

Increased membership, more knowledgeable fund-raising and wider awareness in the community are among the objectives of the Grossmont College Foundation, according to Jessie Gates, new president of the organization.

Jessie Gates

Gates, interim Supervisor of Admissions at GC, was installed at the Foundation's first recognition dinner in late March. She indicates satisfaction with progress made since the Foundation succeeded the GC Alumni Association in 1994. From 35 then, the Foundation's membership has risen to nearly 100, but Gates and her fellow officers and members want to achieve significantly larger numbers in the coming year.

Also in the organization's plans is the service of a fund-raising consultant to "help us learn more about fund-raising," according to Gates. Increased recognition in the community is also important because it will promote new membership and more funds, the Foundation believes.

Foundation membership is open to anybody who desires close contact with Grossmont; it's not necessary to be an alumnus or alumna or a present or former staffer. Dues range from $20 to $5,000 annually, with lifetime membership at $300. It's not true, however, that a $5,000 membership gives you ownership of the swimming pool and weight room.

The Foundation's prime reason for being is to help GC students and staff in areas not covered by regular budgets. For example, the 18-member board of directors each month hears requests, and then may provide unrestricted funds for scholarships, for example, or for art, or for equipment purchases. Expenses of staff development weeks are picked up by the Foundation, whose grants represent help for aspects of Grossmont's educational mission which might otherwise go unfunded.

Installed with Gates as new officers were Tom O'Connell, vice president; Alba Orr, secretary; and Kenneth Batson, treasurer. Richard Venancio was outgoing president; Felix Rogers was vice president, Gates was secretary and Orr treasurer.

At the dinner, Presidential Awards, the Foundation's top honors, went to Chuck Buck, Senior, Joe Payson and Jacquelyn Winn for their hard work for the organization.

5th Annual Chancellor's Emeritus Club Luncheon, January 25, 1996

Good food and good conversation put members of the Chancellor's Emeritus Club in proper mood for this picture. Attending the annual luncheon, hosted by Chancellor Jeanne Atherton at the El Cajon Hungry Hunter restaurant, January 25, were front row, left to right, Marie Reynolds, Eve Lill, Pat Higgins, Ruth Coover, and Muriel Owen; second row, Don Anderson, Bob Rump, Wally Cohen, GC President Richard Sanchez, Erv Metzgar, Bob Danielson, and Bill Burns; third row, Bob Steinbach, Sam Ciccati, Dick Lantz, Bill Hansen, and Lee Hoffman.

Reminder—Retirement Has Its Perks

Retirement brings some benefits in addition to monthly money. In case you've forgotten or overlooked any, here are the perks which are yours as a GCCCD retiree.

First, there's a retiree's Gold Card, which you'll need to claim the benefits. With it, you or your spouse can get a free parking card for staff lots, a library card and an athletic pass. Also, you can use athletic facilities on either campus, get discounts for on-campus concerts, lectures, theatre productions, seminars and at bookstores on both campuses.

If you or your spouse want to take classes at Cuyamaca or Grossmont, presentation of your Gold Card at registration will produce a waiver of tuition for regular classes, or a 50 percent discount for Extended College classes. There are a couple of minor qualifications on the tuition deals. If you already have a BA/BS or higher degree, you may not register sooner than the last day of registration before classes begin. Registration of non-baccalaureate degree applicants will be based on normal district registration priorities. You must show your Gold Card when registering to get your fees waived.

Certificated retirees who have qualified for the title of professor may get the title of Professor Emeritus/Emerita if approved by the Academic Senate and the District Governing Board.

Committee Ponders New District Name

To keep or not to keep—that is the question. Whether it is nobler to keep the long-known—and long—district name, or to select another title and perhaps suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous criticism.

A district committee, headed by Dana Quittner, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development and Public Relations, and including members from various segments of the district, has been looking at suggestions for months, and will probably submit its recommendation to the Governing Board in May.

The name question arose when members of the Board and administration began to speculate on whether the present name—Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District—is so long as to be unwieldy. There also were echoes of the days preceding Cuyamaca College, when there was considerable public confusion of the college district with the Grossmont Union High School District, a problem which would seem long gone.

The Board and administration decided to take a look at some suggestions for new names, and the public was invited to submit proposals. By the time the suggestion period ended, March 15, nearly 50 names had been submitted.

There was Aguadulce Community College District, and Cuyamaca Valley Community College District, and Del Lago Community College District, and Del Rio Community College District and Del Valle Community College District

There was Grosscumaca Community College District, and Grossmaca Community College District. There was Las Lagunas Community College District, and Las Lomas, and Las Mesas and Las Montanas. There was Lomas del Este Community College and Los Cerros and Los Pueblos.

And from somebody who's apparently been a diehard for many years came the suggestion, Grossmont Community College District. It's unlikely to be chosen, but it does share the distinction with several other proposals of having the shortest number of syllables, 10, compared with 14 for the present title.

If the committee recommends a change—it can recommend not changing—and the Board assents, there will be some cost for renaming places and things now carrying the GCCCD, brand, but the cost would not be heavy, since only the district name would change; the colleges would keep their present identities.

By the time this Grapevine is published, the committee and Board may have made their decisions. That's unlikely, but if so, we'll give you the verdict next issue.

Next, Dana Quittner's title.

More Addresses for Your Directory

Judy Grobbel
9262 Camino Paz Lane
La Mesa, CA 91941
461-3478
Spouse: Bob

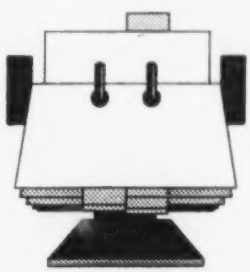
Connie Haltermann
6778 Bluefield Court
San Diego, CA 92120
582-1612
Spouse: Jim

Bob Haywood
7688 Flag Lake
San Diego, CA 92119
463-2303

Larissa Janczyn
6657 Brynwood Way
San Diego, CA 92120
286-6821

Angelita Martinez
1215 Crystal Spring Dr.
Chula Vista, CA 91915
479-5533
Spouse: Nino

Glen L. Meyer
9360 Urban Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91942
697-1820
Spouse: Onnie



GC Mystery Woman No Longer Mystery

Teri Hart Valverde

In a picture taken in the early days of the college, one woman was unidentified among the group of staff members. Neither the photographer nor members of the personnel department, where the picture eventually wound up, could say who she was.

The picture was published in the last issue of the Grapevine. Ray Reynolds, retired journalism and mass communication instructor, said as soon as he saw it, "That's Chuck Valverde's wife." And so it was.

Teri Hart Valverde, then Teri Hart, came to Grossmont in 1961 from a job at San Diego State, and shortly thereafter became secretary to John Burdick, Dean of Student Affairs. She worked for Burdick about a year, then married Charles Valverde, now owner of Wahrenbrock's Book House, in downtown San Diego. Shortly after her marriage she left Grossmont and began a career in real estate. Thirty-four years and three grown children later, she's still married to Valverde and still involved in the real estate field.

She remembers the days at Grossmont with pleasure, particularly the camaraderie among those who, with her, helped get the college off to a solid start.

EDITOR (cont. from p. 2)

equilibrium. The departed are missed, but not for very long, and their passing has little, if any, effect on the long term excellence of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges.

I've never heard it said seriously that the colleges are going down the drain because they've lost retiring personnel, and I'm convinced that's not the case.

Some of us, though, have had the never-so-good-as-when-I-was-there syndrome, and when things seem to be going very well at the colleges, much pride goeth before many falls.

Everybody, or almost everybody, learns that he or she can be replaced, and that learning isn't always easy. But for the well-being of the institutions to which we devoted our years, we really should be glad it's so.

BIBLIO-FILES (cont. from p. 2)

the fascinating members of the several inter-related families whose college-age children are the focus of this novel. If you love a good story written extraordinarily well, don't miss this one. It's classic.

The other novel, set in contemporary Ireland, is Maeve Binchy's Circle of Friends, published in 1991. Some of you may have seen the movie of the same title which made the rounds last year. The book is even better (heard that before?). Although beautifully filmed in Ireland, the movie leaves out a lot. The main character, Benny, is the daughter of a small merchant in the village of Knockglen, near Dublin. She and her childhood friend, Eve, an orphan raised by the nuns at a convent nearby, go off together to University College in Dublin. Eve, attractive and outgoing compared to the plain and introverted Benny, draws them into a "circle of friends" at the college, where their relationship to each other is complicated by a glamorous new friend and by various student romances and personal backgrounds that are not what they first seem. The characters are richly portrayed, and the unveiling of their backgrounds drive a complex plot that will keep you interested to the last page.

Finally, just a reminder that I welcome mail (snail or e) or phone calls if you'd like to comment on books recommended in this column or if there's a book or two you'd like your fellow retirees to know about. I'm listed in the retiree directory and my e-mail is

tscanlan@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us .

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 6, Number 2 July, 1996

CUYAMACA COLLEGE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AIM OF NEW DISTRICT PLAN

Noting Cuyamaca College's dependency on Grossmont College for the past 18 years, the GCCCD Board has adopted a plan to bring Cuyamaca to self-sufficiency by the year 2000.

The plan, which will be funded by an allocation of $600,000 to Cuyamaca for 1996-97, then by a possible $300,000 for each of the next three years, seeks to make that college comprehensive, by adding new full-time instructors and more classes, for a start.

Cuyamaca has been largely dependent since its founding on the economic good health of Grossmont, and board members think their plan can bring that dependency to an end.

Board President Victor Calderon put the board's position this way: "It is clearly stated and understood that resources going to Cuyamaca over the last 18 years have hurt Grossmont. That being the case, we should not allow another year to go by. Any postponement on implementing our policy is a decision to continue the drain. We intend to resolve this problem, and to work with both colleges so each can be the best it can be for the good of all the students and our entire community."

Two thirds of Cuyamaca's faculty have been made up of adjunct—part-time—instructors, and the district plan has been given strong support by Cuyamaca personnel. Cuyamaca's continued growth seems sure; spring enrollment was up 20 percent from a year ago, and summer session classes are filled for the second successive year.

Opposition to the plan, when it was first disclosed, was widespread, particularly on the Grossmont campus. Two reactions often heard were: "If it's been this way for 18 years, why spend money to change it now?" and "This hurts Grossmont."

The GC Faculty Senate opposed the plan originally asking whether the board had acted unilaterally, rather than under the "Shared Governance" concept espoused officially. The senate also expressed concern about a possible negative effect on Grossmont as Cuyamaca becomes a "comprehensive college."

Subsequently the GC Senate announced that it supported self-sufficiency for Cuyamaca, but at the same time asked several provisions by the board in implementing the plan—complete and accurate budget figures for 1996-97; a process for reconsidering the district budget model; agreed-on criteria by which the self-sufficiency plan will be assessed, and a contingency plan to be used if the self-sufficiency plan is not successful.

SAFE GC LIBRARY GETTING NEW FLOORING, NEW SEARCH TOOL FOR FALL SEMESTER

The Grossmont Learning Resource Center, including the library and such other facilities as word processing, instructional media acquisition and graphics, are spending the summer in temporary quarters.

The reason is that the LRC building's carpeting and asbestos tiles are being pulled up for replacement. So, library services have been substantially curtailed during the renovation.

The few services still available, such as a reference desk and a small ready reference collection are located in the Griffin Gate, normally a dining room for faculty and staff.

In addition to new tile and carpeting, the library also will have a new automation system, the SIRSI Unicorn, called a true state-of-the-art system, which will provide keyword searching, full bibliographic descriptions, and much more.

According to Charles Seymour, Campus Risk Manager, the asbestos tiles themselves contain no asbestos; the asbestos is in the glue which was used to put them down when the LRC was built. That glue was generally in use then, but glues used now have no asbestos. There is no hazard when asbestos tiles are down—the only need for caution comes when the tiles are being pulled up. The tiles now going down in the library will be fastened with non-asbestos glue.

Last year's worry about possible danger from electromagnetic fields in the LRC was first voiced by David Wing, GC photography instructor. His concern drew immediate attention from district and college officials, including Chancellor Atherton, Vice Chancellor McMahan, GC President Sanchez, and Seymour. The result was that an expert in evaluating EMF hazards and eliminating them came to GC and did the necessary work to ensure safety in the LRC and across the campus.

CAMPUS BOOKSTORES GO PRIVATE IN HISTORIC CHANGE

In an historic change, an outside corporation, Barnes and Noble, has been hired to manage the Cuyamaca and Grossmont College bookstores.

Until board approval of the Barnes and Noble contract in April, the bookstores had been run by district employees. But the question of management had been a matter of controversy over the past couple of years and the Board decided to shift to outside governance. Barnes & Noble won the business. The book company's proposal will give the colleges $3.5 million over 10 years. Under the former system, the revenue over a 10-year period was $502,000 to Grossmont and $30,000 to Cuyamaca.

The new Grossmont bookstore manager is Natalia R. Rinker, who was bookstore manager at California State, Bakersfield. She was one of two potential managers recommended by Barnes & Noble, and a campus committee chose Ms. Rinker for the job. Cuyamaca's new manager is Mike Gilchrist who comes from Penn State University.

The Grossmont student government received two percent of the bookstore's gross sales under the old management, and the ASGC has been assured that it will receive no less under the new system.

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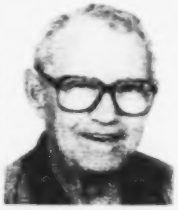
EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Pat Higgins



Ah, the summer days! It's July, and I don't feel up to assessing the Board's plan for Cuyamaca, or the change in the bookstores' status or even the decision to retain the District's present name. Next time, perhaps, but not now.

I've been entertaining summer memories. Not purposely—they seem to come unbidden on a day like this, and I'm not zealous enough to chase them away. The next best thing, I've decided, is to share a memory with you, hoping that one or more of you will reciprocate with some memory we can publish in the Grapevine.

I worked two summers for the Washington State Highway Department, between my junior and senior years of high school, and the next summer, before I started college. I think this memory is from the second summer.

I worked with a highway construction crew—flagging to slow or stop traffic, or driving the pilot pickup truck to lead traffic down an open lane, while the construction crew worked with oil and gravel in the other lane.

In those days the road we were working on was U.S. Highway 10; it's now U.S. 90. It was two lanes then, but plenty wide enough to handle all the traffic that came.

It was a couple of hours past noon on a July day just like this one, though probably hotter than here. We were about 60 miles west of Spokane, my home and our base. I was driving the pilot truck that afternoon. I remember that I took a line of cars east, toward Spokane, then started west, guiding a line of cars which stretched probably a half-mile behind me. That's all I remember until I woke, moving through an unfenced pasture beside the road. Fortunately, there was practically no ditch along the road's shoulder; the terrain was about as flat at the proverbial billiard table.

Luck and quick thinking saved me from great embarrassment. Realizing where I was, I casually—with no sign of alarm—turned my wheels to make a semi-circle back to the road, making plain by my demeanor that I was avoiding some obstacle in the road. I got back on the road, with the first car

(*see* BIBLIO *p. 4*)

TEACHING AWARD HONORS JEANNE RIDDELL

Sparked by the memory of her interest in adjunct faculty members at Grossmont College, friends and family of the late Jeanne Riddell have established an award in her name for outstanding adjunct faculty. Gifts from the Riddell family and sociology professor Gregg Robinson of GC have already started the award fund. Contributions in memory of Jeanne Riddell and for the benefit of GC adjunct instructors are being sought. Checks should be made out to "Grossmont College: Jeanne Riddell Award." On campus, checks may be left in Gregg Robinson's mailbox or they may be mailed to Gregg Robinson, Grossmont College.

BIBLIO-FILES

by Tom Scanlan

I just returned a few weeks ago from my 45th high school reunion back in Greenbelt, Maryland, the first reunion I'd attended since I graduated from that tiny high school (94 seniors). Quite an experience, but that is another story. Anyway, it seemed appropriate to re-read one of the books that impressed me in that long-ago era, so I took along a copy of Francoise Sagan's Bonjour Tristesse. I read it on my return flight, not a difficult task because it's more of a novella than a novel, only 128 pages long.

It's a remarkable first novel, especially so for an eighteen year old, and it was quite the rage when it hit the bookstores in 1955 (some of you may remember the fim version, starring Jean Seberg in one of her best roles) . The title means, approximately, Hello Sorrow, which refers to a loss of innocence on several levels.

Cecile, a young student who's just flunked her first year exams at the Sorbonne (as had the author) is vacationing at a villa on the beach with her widower father, a shameless womanizer. When Anne, an older woman and long-time family friend who truly loves her father pays them a visit, Cecile perceives a threat to the close friendship she has with her father and their casual, if wanton lifestyle. She orchestrates an elaborate scheme to foil their marriage plans with the aid of a young man she's just met that summer (her first lover) and her father's most recent mistress, an alluring woman not much older than herself.

The story, while light reading, ends...as it must...somewhat tragically. My reaction to the ending when I re-read this story, however, was that it was not nearly as tragic as it had seemed to me when I first read it some four decades ago. There's a classic 'coming of age' aspect to this story and a certain nostalgia that very much justified a second reading.

The other novel I'd like to recommend is T. Coroghessan Boyle's Tortilla Curtain. Published last year and now available in paperback, it deals with the issue of illegal immigrants in southern California. The story is told from two viewpoints, that of a young Mexican peasant laborer and his even younger, and pregnant common law wife; and from the point of view of a

(*see* BIBLIO *on p. 4*)

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G.C.'S FIRST 'MUSIC MAN' SUCCUMBS TO CANCER

Carroll M. Reed, who started the Grossmont College Music Department, died of cancer last month in his La Mesa home. He was 74.

Carroll came to Grossmont in 1962 from France where he had taught children of American military personnel at Poitiers High School.

He was for a time the only music instructor at Grossmont, and as his future colleague, David Glissman notes, he gradually added personnel until the department became one of the best in the state.

"Carroll taught about eight subjects when he started," said Glissman, who himself taught choral and vocal music for 20 years. "He was renowned for his work in a class called Introduction to Music, which was required of all education majors." His class in Music Appreciation also was a highlight among department offerings.

Carroll began his career in 1947 as a high school music teacher in Rodeo, then went to Coalinga Community College. There he met his future wife, Nancy, a fellow teacher who subsequently joined him in teaching in France.

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, he graduated from Lebanon Valley College and was a Navy officer during World War Two. During the Normandy invasion in 1944, he was among a handful of men who survived the sinking of their tank landing ship. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

After the war he attended Columbia University and received a master of arts degree in 1947.

He retired from Grossmont in 1982.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

OPAL THOMPSON DIES; STARTED NURSE PROGRAM

Opal G. Thompson, who started the Grossmont College nursing program, and subsequently sent many students into nursing careers, died at her home in La Mesa in May. She was 81.

Ms. Thompson joined the GC faculty in 1966, and a year later welcomed the first nursing students. She served as director of nursing for several years, then continued to teach nursing classes until she retired in 1979. She is remembered by a colleague as hard working and committed to excellence of the department, expecting excellence in her colleagues and students.

After her retirement, she painted in water colors, was an expert quilter, and was fond of animals, adopting four dogs from the Humane Society over the years.

Born in Prattville, Michigan, she enlisted in the Army during the war for training as a nurse. After the war, she attended nursing school in Chicago. She lived in Modesto, earning a teaching credential there before moving south to Grossmont.

HEART ATTACK TAKES TELECOM STAR

Donald E. Settle, GC associate professor of telecommunications,died of a heart attack in April, while sleeping in his Spring Valley home. He was 62. He had a history of heart problems, but his death was a shock because he'd shown no sign of illness and had missed none of his classes.

When he came to Grossmont as a part-time instructor in 1977, he was an announcer-coordinator at Channel 10 television, leaving that station when he became a full-time instructor in the early '80s. The television work and earlier stints at San Diego area radio stations had given him a wealth of experience and countless anecdotes which he brought with him, and he never had a problem keeping students' attention in class.

In addition to his expertise in teaching broadcasting, Don was a man of many other parts and thus particularly interesting to his students and colleagues. He was a biker, occasionally riding his big two-wheeler to work, carrying with him tales of the road. He was a lover of barber shop harmony, and a walking salute to turquoise jewelry. Some said he must own a turquoise mine, but that surmise was never confirmed. He was an auctioneer, with a certificate and patter to prove it. He also was an authority on local history and geography, having been exposed to them in his youth, when he was employed as a driver by the late Col. Ed Fletcher, legendary San Diego County developer.

He had a temper, which occasionally flared mightily, but basically he was a latter-day Will Rogers, never meeting a man he didn't like.

On a Saturday soon after Don's death, Room 225 on the Grossmont campus was filled to standing room for a celebration of Don's life. Humor and laughter reigned without interruption for more than two hours as students, colleagues and former colleagues recalled their experiences with Don; it was a memorable celebration.

Don is survived by his wife Joyce, two daughters, two stepdaughters, a son, his father, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

DEATH CLAIMS VETERAN TECHNICIAN

Stephen Ouellet, technician for the GC Physics/Astronomy Department for 17 years, died May 1 after a two-month battle with cancer.

In a farewell message to his colleagues at the college, Ouellet noted that he'd had a month of discomfort in his shoulder, and on March 11 doctors told him he had cancer. From that time, the cancer quickly took control.

Notifying the faculty and staff of Ouellet's death, GC President Richard Sanchez said this, "Steve was a significant member of the college and served the institution for 17 years. He will be best remembered for his fierce pride in his department, keeping that area of our campus a show place, his personal generosity and sense of humor and his famous model rocket shows. I am certain his many contributions will be remembered."

NEW NAMES DON'T IMPRESS

The District Board has turned thumbs down on a new district name.

The action followed a negative recommendation of the District Name Change Committee, which studied more than 50 names submitted as replacements for the present name. The committee told the Board that it could find no compelling reason for change.

The study was initiated after speculation by some board members that the present name might be too long, and that there might be confusion between this District and the Grossmont Union High School District. Neither concern proved strong enough to effect change, so the District is, and will continue to be, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

ANOTHER HONOR—RUMP IN HALL OF FAME

Grossmont's Bob Rump, a legend in California tennis circles, has been picked for the national Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame.

He was notified in April and will be inducted at UCLA in ceremonies during the NCAA championships there next May. For Rump, the selection is particularly significant because the Hall of Fame membership is chosen from all levels of coaching, including four-year schools.

Bob coached full-time at Grossmont from 1962 until 1986, then coached part-time through 1993. Overall, including both men's and women's teams, he had a record of 624 wins and 117 losses. His men's teams won 13 conference titles, four Southern California championships, one state championship and four Ojai tournament championships. Women's teams won six conference championships, four Southern California championships, four state titles and two Ojai championships.

Officially retired from coaching, Bob teaches part-time. Guess who's listed in the GC Class Schedule for teaching beginning and intermediate tennis these summer evenings?

FOUNDATION BOARD NEAR FULL MEMBERSHIP

The Cuyamaca College Foundation expects to complete its 18-member Board of Directors in September, then will turn its attention to increasing overall membership.

Cuyamaca President Sherrill Amador said the foundation, established in 1994, has concentrated on selecting strong board members, with efforts to gain general members taking a secondary place until the board membership is complete. As of July 1, 11 members were on the board.

President Amador said it's hoped that plans for a membership drive will be in place, so it can begin soon after board completion. A special event aimed at getting members and funds will be scheduled, but its nature and date are yet to be decided.

The purpose of the foundation is to advance Cuyamaca's mission to assist in scholarships for Cuyamaca students and to provide for campus needs not normally routinely funded.

BLAYLOCK LEAVES

Bev Blaylock, who helped usher in the computer age at Grossmont College as Director of Instructional Computing, has taken a new job as Director of Technology for the Santee School District. Her main focus as Grossmont was seeing that the Instructional Program had sufficient support to adequately serve the students. She may have been the most knowledgeable person in computer technology on the Grossmont campus. But she attained her knowledge almost by accident. She took her first course in computers because a friend was taking it. The friend then dropped out, but Bev stayed with the course, and the rest, as they say, is history.

EDITOR *(cont. from p. 2)*

following exactly in my path. Down the road, as we neared the end of my guidance chore, I checked the situation in the outside rear mirror. Sure enough, every car was turning off the highway into the field and back.

Whatever else the conversation, I'm sure their unintended and unexplained turn off the road was a topic of discussion for all those families in all those cars that day. But apparently everybody with whom I worked had been occupied when we made the detour. Nobody ever mentioned it to me, and for the rest of the summer I went straight as an arrow down that lane where responsibility lay.

BIBLIO *(cont. from p. 2)*

liberal, yuppie couple who have moved to a new and expensive neighborhood in the outer suburbs of LA to escape the problems associated with living in that sprawling city. An auto accident entangles their lives and greatly complicates the existence of both couples. Boyle masterfully describes the frustrating struggle to just survive (and the terrors many illegal immigrants face) while seeking a higher standard of living on the part of the young Mexican couple, and the difficult struggle of the yuppie couple to maintain their liberal ideals in the face of the increasing problems posed by illegal immigrants in their neighborhood. Neither struggle produced victors, but the problems each couple had to cope with engendered a practical wisdom which comes from confronting problems too large for any one individual or family to solve. Boyle generally avoided taking sides in this issue, but he has succeeded in showing the reader both sides.

NEW TECHNICIAN

Lisa Scott is the new Risk/Benefit technician in the Personnel Department. She succeeds Chris Bona who has retired. Such items as notices of medical insurance premiums due will be coming to you from Lisa. Ask her the questions you have.

LET YOUR FINGERS . . .

Registration for fall semester classes may be easier now than ever, but getting ready for registration may be about as time-consuming as the old standing-in-line process used to be.

Now, by telephone, an applicant can register for attendance, enroll in whatever classes desired, up to 18 units maximum, drop a class before starting, if he or she changes plans, drop during the semester until the drop deadline, pay fees by credit card, or by promising to mail payment within three days. One can also phone to obtain the preceding semester's grades.

The process takes some concentration, however. The 1996 fall semester class schedule for Grossmont has seven pages of information and instruction for phone registration and related processes. Was life more simple in the old days?

LET'S TRY AGAIN!

WE GOOFED! Last issue in noting these guests at the Chancellor's luncheon, we failed to identify the handsome man on the right in the last row. Our apologies to Lee Engelhorn.

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The bridge above Fanita east of Grossmont College is for earth movers to go back and forth with dirt to be used in 125 freeway. G.C. is in background. The freeway is to join Highway 52 and Mission Gorge Road. It's expected to be in use in 1997 and completed in 1998.

War—GCCCD Chancellor vs. Faculty

A war between the Grossmont College faculty and the GCCCD—principally Chancellor Jeanne Atherton—has produced a No-Confidence vote by the Faculty Senate against Atherton and unfair labor charges by the United Faculty Union against the District.

At Grapevine publication time, there was no sign of peace returning.

The principal reason for the war is apparently the District's effort to bring down the cost of its human resources—personnel and personnel-related costs, such as insurance and medical benefits—and its methods of achieving that end.

Senate and United Faculty leaders believe the District, with the Chancellor leading the way, wants the reduction to be borne by teachers through reduction of the number of teachers, and increased class loads for those remaining. As evidence, faculty members point to the fact that the current semester's schedule has been reduced by more than 100 sections, resulting in larger enrollments in remaining sections, or in students looking elsewhere for classes.

The teachers also contend that top District and College administrators have been given incentive plans which will reward them for any reduction in faculty costs they can bring about.

The No-Confidence resolution, approved by the Senate unanimously except for two abstentions, hits the Chancellor for what it says are policies and actions which threaten to dismantle Grossmont College as an effective quality educational institution. The Chancellor also is charged with a destructive and threatening management style which constitutes an attack on the integrity and dedication of the faculty and administration.

(*see* WAR *p. 3*)

Homecoming to Mark G.C.'s 35th Anniversary

A football game and barbecue at 1961 prices will highlight Homecoming November 23, marking Grossmont's 35th anniversary year.

Felix Rogers and Alma Smith, co-chairs for the day, are extending invitations to former Grossmont cheerleaders, former football players and college retirees to an 11 a.m. barbecue, then to see the Grossmont College football team—which is having an outstanding season—play Southwestern.

The barbecue originally was scheduled to follow the football game but because late afternoons are getting progressively colder, the barbecue was switched to a pre-game start.

Gold card holders will be admitted to the game free, as usual, with non-card holders to pay $2. Concession stand hot dogs will be 50 cents and soft drinks 25 cents. Barbecue will include a sandwich, slaw and soft drink. The cost will be $5 for the barbecue, but barbecue purchase will include a commemorative baseball cap and admission to the game.

Former cheerleaders, football players and staff members will be introduced at the game and the barbecue.

Rogers says all former staff members are invited, but particularly those who were at Grossmont during the 1961-65 period

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Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

Some things in life you can depend on. One is friction between a newspaper and its readers. A college newspaper may generate proportionally more friction than its metropolitan daily counterpart, though whether it does is hard to say.

Sometimes the college paper's friction is with the school's administration, as was the case of the Grossmont *Summit* and Grossmont President Richard Sanchez not long ago. The paper's editors decided to contract for a comic strip syndicated to student newspapers around the country. The comic was called "Life in Hell." The comic ran in the Summit one week, and it didn't take Sanchez long to decide that the strip wasn't suitable for Grossmont College. He ordered it eliminated from the subsequent issues of the newspaper. Considering its highly-forgettable content, I can't say I felt any loss in the strip's quick demise on the Grossmont campus. I'm not sure, though, that I applaud the President's quick action, particularly since the students said they had asked and got the newspaper's advisor's O.K. before ordering the comic strip.

Sometimes, though, quick reader reaction leaves lasting memory. I was advisor for the Grossmont paper, then the *G*, for all my 22 years at the college. Once, I remember, our sports editor/columnist became disenchanted with the Grossmont cheerleaders as they did their stuff before an apathetic crowd at a football game. So he wrote his column, concentrating on the futility of the cheerleaders and suggesting that they give up their sideline activity.

I don't remember how the cheerleaders found out about the column in advance of publication, but they did. So, shortly after the paper was distributed on Wednesday morning,

(see EDITOR *p. 5)*

Navel Engagements

by Don Scouller

As a young man I wasn't a very good dancer. Frankly, I viewed dancing as a way to meet girls. I enjoyed holding girls, and feeling them rub against me. Demure young girls, who could blush on demand, had wordless ways of letting men know when they were attracted to them. It was a way to gauge how well we were getting along. You could tell if you were going to have a good time with a girl. Oh, no, I don't mean a sexual encounter, necessarily. But there might be necking if I was lucky. I remember the joke that went, "Dancing is a navel engagement without semen." That summed it up.

Now I live in a retirement community. Most of us don't like to call it that. We prefer the term "adult resort." I guess that is because we all remember the jokes about retirees in Saint Petersburg, Florida, or San Diego, California. The theme was about old men playing checkers in a public park, or blue-haired women with rhinestone glasses playing mahjong. Well, thank goodness it isn't at all like that. We have many wonderful people who live very active lives in a supportive, culturally creative way. Our social lives are as active as we choose to make them. For instance, there are several dance groups, ranging from ballroom to Latin to country/western. My wife and I have joined the ballroom group and in the last three years have enjoyed more dances than in the previous 45 years. Oh, we danced when we first met; in fact that was how we met. But that's another story.

Seven decades of a losing fight against gravity has slowed us all down to a certain degree. It is especially noticeable in faces. People who are really quite cheerful often look as though they are unhappy because they relax into a dour look. Despite the fact that I'm a little paunchy and mildly arthritic, my bride of 45 years is my favorite partner.

(see NAVEL ENGAGEMENTS *back page)*

Biblio-Files

by Tom Scanlan

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves how universal, in time and place, are the lives and loves of people and the problems which all of us occasionally face. Two novels which do just that are Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks*, published in Germany in 1901 (awarded Nobel Prize in 1929) and Marcel Proust's *Swann's Way*, published in France in 1913. Proust's novel is the first part of his larger work, *Remembrance of Things Past*, now widely regarded as one of the greatest achievements in world literature.

Neither of these books, given their vintage, read as easily as a modern novel, but once you become comfortable with the earlier writing style, these novels pull you into another time and place that is obviously remote and yet strangely familiar. You'll find in these masterfully written works a pleasing blend of history and geography, sociology and psychology, story and dialogue...a kind of reader's feast for those willing to put aside briefly those more modern novels which lie about on our tables and bookshelves.

(see BIBLIO-FILES *on p. 5)*

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Collins Remembered

Charlie Collins

Charles C. (Charlie) Collins, Grossmont's first Dean of Instruction died of a heart attack July 28 while visiting San Luis Obispo from his home in Berkeley. He was 77.

Hired by Jack Hansen, G.C.'s first president, Collins did much to shape Grossmont's educational picture his six years here. He earned high praise for his devotion to innovative teaching, along with some criticism for his passion in responding to his beliefs. Active in pushing civil rights, he participated in a sit-in at a downtown San Diego building and was arrested and jailed as a result. The incident drew praise from some at Grossmont, castigation from others.

While here, Collins did some teaching along with handling his administrative duties. One class in psychology was mandatory for all first-year students. Collins lectured to large classes in filled Room 220. Students then participated in small-group discussion sessions, with counselors assigned to lead the sessions.

Ray Reynolds, who, like Collins, came to Grossmont for its start, and taught English, journalism and mass communication, remembers Collins for his dedication. "He was one of the few who really wanted to raise the intellectual level of students, to take them beyond community college in their thinking," Reynolds recalled.

Larry Coons, Dean of Admissions and Guidance when G.C. opened, remembers Collins' arrival at Grossmont, particularly because it was late, and the chore of writing the school's first catalog fell to Hansen, Collins' newly-hired secretary—now Dr. Mildred McAuley—and Coons. Collins arrived in time to help finish the project, having been detained by the Army for which he'd been guidance counselor at schools in Germany. After working with Hansen on the writing project, Collins remarked to Coons that Hansen was a compulsive worker. (Larry Coons suffered a slight stroke in July, However, he's recovered rapidly and is back to riding a bicycle and pursuing his avocation of San Diego area tour guide.)

Collins left Grossmont in the summer of 1967 on a leave of absence to go to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, as a Fulbright professor. His mission was to help establish a form of community college, to be called a junior university college. After Ceylon, he accepted a teaching/administrative job at UC Berkeley and did not return to Grossmont. At Berkeley he was Associate Director of the Junior College Leadership Program.

From 1968 until 1972, he helped plan Los Medanos College at Pittsburg, California, and when it opened, he went there as Dean of Humanistic Studies until he retired in 1980.

Born in Bramen, Oklahoma, Collins grew up in Coalinga, attending elementary school, high school and community college there. He subsequently got bachelor's and master's degrees from Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from Stanford. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 until 1945.

WAR *(cont. from p. 1)*

A principal particular of the No-Confidence allegations is what's called the Chancellor's no-growth plan for Grossmont until the year 2000. It's likened to corporate "downsizing," in this case larger classes taught by fewer instructors.

The alleged unfair labor practices, submitted to the state Public Employees Relations Board, involve perceived conflicts of interest in administrators' contracts and tardiness by the District in allowing the United Faculty to see those contracts.

Responding to the No-Confidence vote, Chancellor Atherton told the Grapevine, "There's been a lot of misinformation spread by a small group of people. I'm not surprised that some people believe it."

On the incentive plans for administrators, she said, "The Board wants to get to the average of comparable districts whose pay is higher, but overall cost of human resources is lower. This is one way of getting there. There are many ways to get to that average."

The reduction in numbers of class sections wasn't her idea, she said. Grossmont President Richard Sanchez expected a four percent increase in enrollment, with anticipated funds for that number. But instead, enrollment increased only one-point-six percent with consequent lower funds. The Chancellor said the College could have used other funds to retain the class sections if their retention had been considered essential, but college officials made the decision to drop them.

In the view of some faculty members, the current war really began when Atherton arrived four years ago. As evidence, they point to one of her introductory remarks which warned District employees that they should contemplate the possibility of a 10 percent pay cut.

"I take responsibility for that, though it wasn't my idea," Atherton said. "We were way over budget and didn't have enough resources. We were looking for alternatives. I think of that remark as the usual stuff that goes back and forth between unions and management."

The Chancellor says she doesn't know what position the Governing Board will take, because she can't legally talk to Board members until the Board's next meeting. She did say she expects the Board to want information on specifics in the matter, and that probably can't be accomplished in a single meeting.

She said she has received suggestions from a number of people recently about how to break the logjam.

Holiday Reminder

Alba Orr wants to remind all retirees that they are always welcome to attend the Christmas season "goodie table" in the Griffin Gate at Grossmont College on December 13. Continental Breakfast at 9 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m. Call her at the College, ext. 623, if you plan to bring something.

Retirement Breakfast—Food, Information—Both Good

Program Time

Nearly 40 GCCCD retirees heard about developments at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges and got information about HMO practices during their annual breakfast August 23 in the Griffin Gate on the Grossmont campus.

Grossmont President Richard Sanchez noted the new bookstore arrangement with Barnes & Noble and said the college would get a better return than during the college management of the past.

Sanchez also hailed the GC forensic team which captured a national championship, and said the school's Reach One—Teach One program has 350 students enrolled this semester. He noted that the Learning Resource Center-Library has new carpeting, and that $800,000 worth of interior lighting will be installed on the GC campus next year.

Cuyamaca President Sherrill Amador reported that CC's enrollment for fall is up nearly 25 percent from last year.

Six new faculty members have been added for the fall session at Cuyamaca and three more will begin in spring semester, bringing full-time staff to 35 percent of the total teaching staff. President Amador also noted that 1,000 are enrolled and using the college's new physical education plant.

"...doctors make medical decisions without pressure from their HMOs"

From left: Frieda Ralston, Rita Mallow, George Dillion, Bob Haywood

From left: George Hernandez, Paul Rodriques, Glen Meyer

"...CC's enrollment for fall is up nearly 25 percent"

Brian Kilpatrick, of Barney and Barney Insurance, which sponsored the breakfast, greeted the retirees, while Brennan Kohmescher, of Secure Horizons, explained some of the workings of Health Maintenance Organizations—HMOs.

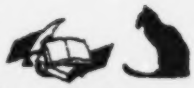
Probably most newsworthy was Ms. Brennan's denial of the often-heard accusation that HMOs are responsible for care curtailments of patients to save money—for example, by sending patients out of hospitals before doctors think they should be.

Ms. Brennan said HMOs, such as Secure Horizons, contract with groups of doctors, and that doctors make medical decisions without pressure from their HMOs. It is the patient's primary care doctor who decides the nature and duration of a patient's care, she contended.

Also, attending were Victor Calderon, president of the GCCCD Board, and District Chancellor Jeanne Atherton. Lisa Scott and Charles Seymour arranged the breakfast.

From left: Brennan Kohmescher, of Secure Horizons; Brian Kilpatrick, of Barney and Barney; GCCCD Board President Victor Calderon; Chancellor Jeanne Atherton; GC President Richard Sanchez; and Sam Ciccati, retired Cuyamaca President

BIBLIO-FILES
(cont. from p. 2)



Buddenbrooks follows several generations of a middle-class merchant's family in Germany, focusing on the merchant Buddenbrooks' daughter, Tony, whom we meet when she is only eight years old, at a time when Napoleon ruled France. We follow her through two failed marriages into old age, meeting also her two brothers, Tom and Christian. Tom, the older brother, follows the straight and narrow path, eventually taking over his father's business and becoming the 'man of the family' when his father dies. Christian, the youngest child, is more interested in theater and life on the town, is often in debt, and becomes the 'black sheep' of the family. There's local politics and gossip and other family members and friends to make your visit to 19th Century Germany both realistic and comfortable, as well as entertaining.

But it is Tony who holds your interest throughout. Her first love, a student she meets while staying at a beach resort, is ruled out as marriageable by her family. Instead she is encouraged by her parents to yield to the courting of a fawning, and it turns out, dishonest businessman whom she despised when she first met him. She resists marriage for some time but eventually succumbs to family pressures (*marry a businessman*) and her own desire for independence and finer things. After that marriage fails, social stigma attached to divorcees leads her into a second marriage with a colorful but (to her mind) rather vulgar Bavarian who has retired early and spends much time enjoying his friends and beer. So Tony returns to her family home and eventually takes on the role of an elderly matriarch, living vicariously through the lives of the younger generation.

Proust's novel takes place mostly within the mind of a man whose memories of childhood have been most vividly evoked by his tasting madeleine cookies dipped in tea. As a child, he was shy and precocious, spending most of his time in the company of adults. The events he recalls are set amid the fashionable society of turn-of-the-century France. His family's travels and acquaintances provide the situations which he details and ponders, searching always for the meaning of things. He is especially enchanted by the theater and actors of that time and place, and also by certain philosophers and composers of music (which would now be called classical).

M. Swann is a long time friend of his father and a highly regarded bachelor in this circle of acquaintances. Much of the novel describes Swann's troubling courtship with a woman who, it turns out, is bestowing her favors on other gentlemen (and has quite a history of doing so) and has no deep feelings for Swann. He eventually discovers her deceit and rationalizes away his earlier love for her, although he later visits with some prostitutes in an attempt to understand her better

The real joy in this novel, however, is not Swann's story or the stories of other characters remembered from childhood. You'll enjoy most Proust's descriptive use of language and the way he details the inner thought processes involved as he and his characters struggle to find meaning in their existence. Thanks to Proust's meticulous descriptions, you'll discover that the thought processes in the minds of these people from this very different time and place are not so different from your own.

I found that it took me a while to 'come back' to the present time and place after putting down each of these books. It's reminiscent of the way I often feel when leaving the Old Globe Theater at the close of a Shakespearean play. My mind continues to think in an Elizabethan dialect for some hours following, and I have to take care not to speak as such. I believe that is the magic of all good writing...to transport the reader to wherever and whenever with such realism that it is almost a shock when one 'returns'.

EDITOR *cont. from p. 2)*

several of the cheerleaders managed to commandeer a maintenance cart. They rolled around the campus removing the paper from all distribution boxes. I don't remember how or where we found the pilfered papers, but we did. The papers were put into the boxes again, and this time they got no unauthorized removal.

Perhaps that should have been the end of the cheerleaders' reaction, but it wasn't. Two days later, as the *G* staff was having its weekly meeting, the door to the office opened suddenly and a cheerleader—in uniform, as I remember—walked in, looked around, then marched directly to the columnist. She said nothing; she just wound up and WHAP she slapped him across the face, turned around and walked out. I'm sure the columnist has never forgotten the direct action reaction, and probably nobody else in that room has either.

To be honest, I was glad I was at the other end of the room. If the slapper had noticed me, she might have concluded I was the teacher who'd let the stupid column be run, and that I also ought to get a blow for her honor and that of her maligned cohorts. I'd have looked mighty foolish running away from the wrath of a 100-pound cheerleader.

Calderon Loses

The GCCCD Governing Board apparently will have a new member next month, when Timothy Caruthers steps into the seat he has apparently won by defeating Board President Victor Calderon in the November 5 election. Caruthers will be installed at the Board's December 6 meeting. At *Grapevine* publication time, votes were still being counted. Also starting a new term will be Ronald Kraft who won reelection by a wide margin.

Board members Rick Alexander, Rebecca Clark and Carolyn Griffin will be Board carry-overs; none of them were up for election November 5.

NAVEL ENGAGEMENT *(cont. from p. 2)*

She has slowly coached me into becoming a better dancer than ever. Our dance group usually hires small combos, anything from trios to sextets, and on special occasions a full 10- or 12-piece band. Three out of four times there will be a Swing Band, playing the arrangements we remember from our youth in the late 30's and the WW2 era. That music has special memories for many of us. It takes us back into a sanitized past where everything is dreamy and idyllic, and often bittersweet with the memory of war, separation and loss. When you add physical activity to the rhythms, a kind of magic occurs. Bald-headed men with white mustaches and sagging jowls slowly work their way behind their rotund wives who are walking heavily toward the dance floor. The lines in their faces reflect age, and they don't laugh as much or as readily as they did when 20.

And that's when the magic happens. Can you recall Glen Miller's arrangement of "A String of Pearls," or "Frenesi" by Arty Shaw, or any arrangement by Tommy or Jimmy Dorsey, the trumpet of Harry James, the clarinet of Benny Goodman? These are sounds that dissolve time and bring back long forgotten muscle memories. Music goes right to the heart, bypassing the brain and logic. The years fall away, and arthritis is forgotten. Feet find their own patterns of complex moves and septuagenarians jitterbug as they once did 50 years ago. If you watch closely, you'll see a sparkle in our eyes, and smiles brighten our faces, and for a few minutes we all are 20-something again.

That is a kind of magic, and if I didn't live here, I wouldn't experience it. So, again I say, I live in an active adult resort community, and I love it.

Editors's Note: Don Scouller, long a Telecommunication instructor at Grossmont, now lives in Sun City, Tucson, Arizona. His dancing has been somewhat curtailed; if he's dancing now, it's to slow waltzes. He had a quadruple heart bypass surgery in August. He's recuperating rapidly, to the joy of his wife, son and friends. His address is 14401 North Glen Hollow Place, Tucson, Arizona, 85737.

Cardiac Arrest Takes Ferris

The roll of GCCCD retirees lost a member October 12, when a cardiac arrest rought death to Donald Ferris, who taught industrial technology at both Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges.

Ferris began teaching at Grossmont in 1970. When his program, along with many others, was shifted to Cuyamaca, he taught there until he retired in 1986. About 18 months after he retired, he began to have heart problems, which eventually forced him to somewhat curtail his activities such as travel in a motor home.

Ferris was a native of Glen Lakes, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and got his graduate degree at U.S. International. He worked for Convair-General Dynamics from 1970 until he began teaching at Grossmont.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, two daughters and two sons.

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JC

GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 7, Number 1 April, 1997

Where Have All the Young Years Gone?

These original GC faculty members already had 20 years in when this anniversary photo was taken in 1981, and they seemed happy with their lot. Front row, l-r: Trudy Hill (Bratten), Dorothy Arnold, Shirley Acheson, Tom Hepp, Mickey Shelley, Shirley Collamer, Bob Danielson, Lee Engelhorn; second row, Charlene Lamons, Don Anderson, Bob Holden, Brad Palmer, Lee Roper; third row, Walt Yuhl, Ruth Coover, George Washington, Martin Gerrish, Bill Carden, Ray Resler, John Burdick, Ray Reynolds, Larry Coons. For older group, see page 3.

(Photo by John Dixon
Courtesy of Bob Danielson)

Spring Fair at GC to Mark 35 Years

Grossmont College will mark 35 years of academic excellence with a Spring Fair Thursday, April 24, on the quad between the LRC and administration building on the campus.

Retirees will be particularly welcome at the Fair, which will be GC's official observance of its 35th birthday, complementing last fall's Homecoming football game, which drew former students and staff to the campus.

The Fair, from noon to 6 p.m., will highlight college class offerings and will feature student demonstrations in such areas as computer-assisted math, pottery, painting and poetry. Photos of current GC personnel will be on display, plus old photos detailing the college through the years. A "memory board" will be likely to evoke nostalgia and prompt reminiscences among retirees. Those attending will have opportunity to voice their "most memorable" Grossmont experience on a video tape which will be made to commemorate the occasion. Also available will be copies of the new photographic Gallery of GC personnel.

Naturally, there will be a 35th birthday cake. It will be cut and shared during the afternoon.

The Fair is being sponsored by the GC Foundation, with Alma Smith as chair.

Cuyamaca Springfest Offers Variety of Presentations

Cuyamaca's celebration of spring will be a week-long Springfest, starting April 14.

The week will begin with a Health Fair on Monday, which will offer medical screening, talks by community professionals and fitness trends.

On Wednesday, April 16, focus will be on a Career Fair, where those attending will learn employment trends and requisites. Cuyamaca personnel and representatives of area employers will give information and advice.

Also on Wednesday, Michael Hall, head of the college's Environmental Technology program, will head an environmental conference, which will include Cuyamaca participants and outside speakers examining environmental challenges.

Friday, April 18, single parents will hear about developments which may affect them, including welfare reform regulations which may bring changes for some single parents.

Sandi Phoenix is chair for the Health Fair, Laurie Brown for the Career Fair, and Sandy Lyon for the Single parents conference.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

Whatever your thoughts about the California lottery, you'll probably be happy to know that GCCCD is getting a substantial sum from the lottery this year. The amount, according to GC President Richard Sanchez, is about $1.6 million. A few years ago, I remember Ivan Jones, then GC president, listing the yearly take at about $1 million. If the amount through the years has been around that amount, the lottery unquestionably has been of considerable help to the district, and has made it more difficult to oppose it on principle. Or has it?

# # # # #

The legality of the lottery was assured, at least temporarily when keno was eliminated last year. Now the continuing fight is over gambling at American Indian casinos, with slot machines as the principal objects of disagreement. Not all slot machines, though; only those on which the house pays a portion of players' winnings, called Class 3 machines. Their operation is similar to parimutuel, where if you pick a winning horse at Del Mar, you get a portion of the amount bet that day. None of your winning comes from track funds. But apparently the disputed slot machines are a source of great profit; one tribal leader has said they account for two-thirds of his casino's profits. I don't know why—perhaps the payoffs can be larger with the Class 3 machines, thereby drawing more play than those not funded by the house.

In San Diego County, the Barona, Sycuan and Viejas casinos are still operating Class 3 slot machines under a temporary 1994 agreement with U.S. Attorney Alan Bersin. The agreement will remain in

(*see* EDITOR *p. 5*)

Poet's View

Self-Promotion

A rose is a rose is a rose.
Scholars often have said,
Except at Grossmont College
Where titles are being spread.

Professors Emeritus, Emeriti,
Titles which come with hardly a try,
Be they pretentious and divisive,
And even downright sleazy.

We'll call ourselves a university
A notch above Harvard and Yale.
And the matter of integrity,
Take up at your local yard sale.

So now doesn't the Ph.D.
Have a much too common ring?
Let's order a gross of tiaras
And all crown ourselves as king.

Lee Roper—GC Poet Laureate
(Self-appointed, of course)

Ed. Note—Anybody want to react to the poet laureate? Applaud him, quarrel with him? Let the Grapevine know; we'll print your views.

The Grapevine is a free newsletter for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly.

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Biblio-Files Column
Tom Scanlan

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The Grapevine is published in November, April and July. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.

Biblio-Files

by Tom Scanlan

My first selection this time, *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson (pub. 1995, paperback), was influenced in part by my recent visit to Seattle. I enjoyed the Christmas holidays there with my oldest daughter, Karen, and her husband, Mark. This was their first Christmas in their own house (they'd been students living in rented homes or apartments since their marriage over five years ago). As most of you know, Seattle had their worst snow storm in seventy years beginning the day after Christmas, so Rosemarie and I were snowed in there an extra four days longer than we'd planned. We saw lots of 'snow falling on cedars'.

There's another reason that Seattle influenced my choice. Guterson's novel, published in 1995, is set mostly on San Piedro, an isolated island north of Puget Sound, only hours away from Seattle by boat. He describes life in this small village of gill-net fisherman as only a native could. It's a novel that informs as it entertains.

This is Guterson's first novel, yet it won the prestigious 1995 Pen/Faulkner award. It's a wonderful story of how people's ties to the land and their national origins affect their loves, hates and prejudices—profoundly affecting their own lives and the lives of those they touch. In an interview, Guterson summarizes his writing of the novel with, "My work comes from inner disturbances, from seeing injustices and accidents and how they affect peoples' lives in a tragic way."

Much of the story involves the mid-1950's trial of Kabuo Miyamato, a Japanese-American fisherman. He's accused of

(*see* BIBLIO-FILES *p. 5*)

16 Head for Leisure

Seven veteran members of the GC teaching staff will leave active duty in June, joining GCCCD teachers and classified staffers who retired at or near the end of 1996.

The 1996 retirees were Ed Daner, GC sociology instructor; Julie Kuhl, District programmer analyst; Robert Akers, Cuyamaca Education Development and Service; Roberta Eddins, Grossmont Admissions and Records; Judith Hodgson, Grossmont Bookstore; Joan Mayuiers, Cuyamaca President's Office; Curtis Nichols, Grossmont Maintenance; Frank DeGraff, Grossmont Grounds; and James Hinkley, Grossmont history instructor.

Those retiring in June, all from Grossmont, are Glenda Richter, English instructor; Felix Rogers, physical education/athletics; Don Shannon, history; Jean Sprunt, physical education; Eleanor Tucker, speech; Elaine Wolfe, math; and Wayne Harmon, geography.

GC Bargaining Now More Calm

Relations between the district and the Grossmont College faculty seem considerably more calm than when the November Grapevine was published. Negotiations on the matter of shared governance continue between the district and the faculty senates of Cuyamaca and Grossmont College, but apparently without the rancor, or with less of it, than characterized last fall's meetings. Even then, the Cuyamaca delegation led by Faculty President Tony Zambelli indicated that shared governance was working well at that college, even though bitterness was widespread at Grossmont.

Recently, Chancellor Jean Atherton has met with the faculty representatives on the shared governance question, and though a number of issues remained to be settled at the time of Grapevine publication, the fact of the meetings seemed to presage better days.

On the basic contract for pay and working conditions, the Grossmont United Faculty and the district are at the point of exchanging specific money proposals and trying to negotiate their differences. One of the union's unfair labor charges against the district has been dismissed by a member of the Public Employees Relations Board, but the union says it can be revived for a full board hearing. The other unfair charges are still before PERB.

'Doctors' Check Costs District $3,750

One of the most unusual deals in GCCCD history apparently will result in the district paying $3,750 to find that an outside audit contains only minor errors.

The affair began when Trustee Carolyn Griffin decided that an audit conducted by Vavrinek, Trinen, Day & Co., one of the state's largest accounting firms, ought to be rechecked for accuracy. So, apparently telling nobody, she contacted a firm named Accounting Doctors, and asked about having the audit reviewed.

At the March 4 board meeting, to the surprise of those present, Griffin revealed her plan and moved that the board hire Accounting Doctors for $3,750. She insisted, however, that she should handle all arrangements, and said she had instructed Accounting Doctors to that effect. At the meeting she was unable to answer such questions about whether the firm had any certified public accountants, and where the company is located. It was later learned that its home is Ventura.

Trustee Rick Alexander questioned the proposal, "I mean, is this responsible government?.....We might as well take a guy off the street, for all we know."

Griffin said such comments were much ado about nothing. "I don't know what all the uproar is."

Voting on Griffin's proposal to hire Accounting Doctors, Board President Rebecca Clark and newly-elected board member Timothy Caruthers voted affirmatively. Alexander and Ron Kraft voted against it.

So, whatever the feelings of district officials, Business Vice Chancellor James Austin was obligated by the board vote to sign a contract for the Accounting Doctors' services.

Subsequent procedural steps required that the contract, signed by both the district and Accounting Doctors, be ratified, then for the Ventura firm to report its findings about the audit and collect its pay. All that was scheduled for the April 1 board meeting, but at meeting time no signed contract had been received from Ventura. In addition, Clark and Kraft were absent at the start of the meeting. So, it appeared there'd be no ratification, presentation or payments.

Meanwhile, former long-time district board member Barbara Collis took the board and Accounting Doctors to task for lack of ethics in the affair, citing work on the review taking place while no contract had been signed.

Others who spoke included Lisa DeJesus, Grossmont student representative, who said GC students were opposed. She also said the Doctors' references included no declaration that anybody on the firm's staff had previously dealt with a state-allocated budget.

(*see* **DOCTORS** *back page*)

Chancellor's Luncheon

At the Chancellor's luncheon in January at the Outback Restaurant, those attending included, first row l.-r.: Pat Higgins, Bob Danielson, Ruth Coover, Marie James, Muriel Owen, Irv Metzgar, Lee Engelhorn; second row: Bill Burns, Bob Steinbach, Sam Ciccati, Lee Hoffman, Don Anderson, Bob Rump, Emilie Duggan-Zouhar, Wally Cohen, Tom Scanlan, Bill Hansen.

More E-mail Addresses

The Grapevine has been on-line at the GCCCD web site (http://www.gcccd.cc.ca.us) under Grossmont College Publications since February, 1996.

Now, to encourage you to act on those impulses to complain or congratulate, we're giving you a couple of e-mail addresses where you can get us so quickly you may just be walking away from your computer when our reply will come flashing in.

For Tom Scanlan:
scanlan@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us
or
scanlan@msn.com

For Pat Higgins:
MEJ2HIGG@col.com

Try us.

New Memorial Scholarships

Scholarships have been established at Grossmont College for two faculty members who died last year.

One is in memory of Carolyn Shushan who died in December. She started and directed the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Grossmont. Contributions may be made to the Carolyn Panak Shushan Scholarship Fund. Checks should be made payable to Grossmont College, with a notation at the lower left hand corner that they are for the Carolyn Shushan Scholarship Fund. Mail your check to Linda Bunney at the GC Financial Aid Office.

The other scholarship is in memory of Don Settle, long-time telecommunications instructor, who died last April. Contribution checks should be made payable to GC, with the notation that they are for the Donald E. Settle Scholarship Fund, and sent to Linda Bunney, in the Financial Aid Office.

Lantz, Scouller Recuperating

Dick Lantz, retired GC biology instructor, is back to his leisure activities after suffering a mild heart attack about seven months ago. The attack came while he was sailing solo in a regatta. He finished the race, then decided he ought to get checked at a hospital. First indications were that the problem wasn't a heart attack, but subsequent tests showed that it was. Fortunately, the problem wasn't severe. Now he has to remember to take pills, but doctors say he can do whatever he wants in the way of exercise, including daily hiking.

Don Scouller, who wrote "Navel Engagement" for the last issue of the Grapevine, also is recuperating at home in Tucson. His injury is a broken metatarsal bone. Scouller says he suffered the break after he became despondent and attempted suicide by jumping off a sofa. That explanation is what in his days as telecomm instructor was called a "Scoullerism." His wife, Joan, who is considerably more trustworthy than he, says he was helping her clean house and stood on the arm of a sofa to reach a high spot for dusting. He fell, twisting his foot and breaking the bone. He wore a cast for a couple of days, but now is reasonably unfettered and doing normal activities, but no dusting.

Welfare Reform Hits GCCCD Students

Some 1,500 Grossmont students and 500 at Cuyamaca have been hit by the first aspects of welfare reform.

The old AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) program has become Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with mandatory work by recipients, tighter rules for food stamps, greater efforts to enforce child support orders and other features.

According to the Career Chronicle, put out by the staff of the GC Career Center, the greatest impact on the students will be the requirement for work. Noting that Gov. Pete Wilson's first priority is getting welfare recipients into jobs, the Chronicle staffers point to the fact that the low-skilled or entry-level jobs for which the welfare recipients might qualify, won't pay enough income to support families. Many welfare recipients don't possess the basic skills to get employment in San Diego County; that's why they are on welfare.

Some jobs suggested as positions which welfare recipients could fill include customer service representatives, sales persons, cashiers, receptionists, information clerks and hotel desk clerks. Starting money ranges from the minimum wage of $5 an hour to $11.

Those fortunate enough and persistent enough to get a bachelor's degree in making a career as customer service representatives could achieve annual salaries of $30,000 to $40,000.

Most important to employers, says the Chronicle, basing its information on a study by the U.S. Labor Department and the American Association of Counseling and Development, are ability and desire to learn; basic academic skills in reading, writing and computation; listening and oral communication. Also creative thinking and problem solving; self-esteem and goal setting; concentration on personal and career development; skill in interpersonal/ negotiation and teamwork and organizational effectiveness and leadership.

EDITOR *cont. from p. 2*

effect until courts rule on the use of the machines. One case pits an Indian plaintiff against Gov. Pete Wilson, and it may reach the U.S. supreme Court; a decision by that body would settle the question definitely. Under the temporary agreement, the three casinos are keeping but not expanding the Class 3 operation. Currently also, the state is negotiating with the Pala Indians for a compact, which is stronger and more permanent than an agreement. If a compact is reached, it may become a model for the whole state, and the San Diego tribes might agree to a similar settlement. For now, the tribes may be getting revenge for Manhattan Island.

# # #

A lighter topic now. Lee Roper thinks we retirees don't get together often enough as a group. He thinks we should have some gatherings in addition to the annual Retirees' breakfast and the Chancellor's Luncheon. Is his sentiment typical of those of retirees living within coffee/breakfast/luncheon/dinner distance of the GCCCD area? If they're your sentiments, let the Grapevine know, by a note to that effect by June 15, prior to publication of our next issue in early July. Or call Lee at 287-3799, and he'll pass the word on. If there's enough sentiment, we'll ask somebody to arrange something. It would be a pay-your-own-way affair; we probably wouldn't ask for any sponsors.

If you think twice-a-year is enough, or more than enough, don't bother to tell us. No news will be "no" news.

BIBLIO-FILES
cont. from p. 2

murdering a local fisherman because of a dispute involving family property that was confiscated years ago at the outbreak of World War II when Kabuo was interned at Manzanar, along with thousands of other Japanese-Americans. There's an intriguing mystery as to the true nature of the crime, and how Kabuo's warrior skills and resentment might have driven him to murder.

The story moves back to just before the war, to a high-school love affair between Hatsue, now Kabuo's wife, and another islander, Ishmael Chambers. Their budding relationship was shattered by the outbreak of the war and her family's forced evacuation to the internment camp.

Guterson describes her family's life in the internment camp and the profound effect this has on their futures, especially Hatsue's. Here she meets Kabuo, and they are hurriedly married just before he joins the Army in order to prove his loyalty to America. The story then returns to the trial, where it now develops that Ishmael Chambers, still bitter and despondent over his failed romance with Hatsue, may hold the key to determining her husband's innocence or guilt. There's lots of conflict and suspense, but it is empathy for Ishmael, Hatsue and Kabuo that will keep you turning the pages of this very touching and exceptional novel.

A much lighter but delightful little novel is Peter Mayle's, ***Hotel Pastis***, published in 1993 (paperback). It is also a first novel, and, as in Guterson's novel, the setting is masterfully rendered and plays a major role. Mayle had previously written ***A Year in Provence***, a best-selling travelogue based on his own experience living in this part of France.

He uses this locale for his novel, wherein an Englishman, Simon Shaw, recently divorced and frustrated by his job as an advertising executive, vacations to this part of France and is thoroughly charmed by a small village and its people. With prompting from his new-found French sweetheart, Nicole, he decides to convert the village's abandoned police station into a boutique hotel and get out of the rat-race of advertising altogether. He convinces his loyal friend, chauffeur and 'man servant,' Ernest, to help him set up and run the hotel, because Ernest is expert at decorating, a connoisseur of food and wine, and works wonderfully well with people.

The town's various inhabitants, eager to help with and profit from this project, add local color and comedy to the novel. The story is enhanced by a sub-plot involving some aging local thugs and their convoluted scheme to rob the bank in a nearby town. They end up kidnapping the son of one of Simon Shaw's wealthy clients, which further complicates his task of establishing his new hotel. In this type of novel, you know that 'all will end well' but getting to the ending is lots of fun.

My third and final review, ***O Come Ye Back to Ireland***, by Niall Williams and Christine Breen (pub. 1987, paperback) is also a book about 'place' but is non-fiction, even though it reads very much like a novel. Niall, from Dublin, and Christine, from New York, met each other as graduate students in Literature at University College Dublin and were married two years later in New York, where they each found jobs with publishing houses. Uncomfortable with their yuppie existence in Manhattan, they decided to return to Ireland and to take up farming at Kiltumper, a fifty acre farm in western Clare where Chris's grandfather was born. The book is an account of their first year on the farm, where they had to deal with harsh weather, isolation, a primitive cottage, and their lack of knowledge about farming and country living. They battle rain and mud and cold while trying to grow their own vegetables, raise their own chickens and cut their own peat for their cottage's solitary stove and heater. In spite of many hardships, they discover themselves and, through their neighbors, the soul of Ireland that first year, and reward the reader with a story that appeals to those universal yearnings to go back to the land, back to one's roots. You'll be taken enough with their story to send you back to the bookstore for their later books, ***When Summer's in the Meadow*** and ***The Luck of the Irish: Our Life in County Clare***, in which they describe their life at Kiltumper following that first difficult year.

Doris Alexander Recommends:
Another retiree who weathered Seattle's worst snow storm in seventy years, Doris Alexander, wrote me a letter while the snow was still falling outside her window, in which she recommended a number of books, most of which I've not read yet. Of those I have read, I'd certainly recommend Tim O'Brien's, ***The Things They Carried***, a very personal account of one foot-soldier's perceptions of the war in Vietnam. She also recommends ***The English Patient***, and since I enjoyed the film and I've been told the book is even better (we hear that a lot, don't we?), I'd certainly agree with her recommendation.

(*cont. on the next page*)

BIBLIO-FILES *cont. from p. 5*

Other titles she recommends in that letter are: ***Corelli's Mandolin***, by Louis de Bernieres; ***Regeneration***, by Pat Barker; ***Dancing at the Rascal Fair***, by Ivan Doig; ***The Good Rain***, by Timothy Egan; and ***A Debt to Pleasure***, by John Lanchester. She also suggested that I try something by William Trevor, whom she considers one of the finest writers in English of this century.

Thank you Doris. Now, where will I find the time?

Note: Judy Barkley informed me that the English Department will not produce *The Cowles Mountain Journal* this year (1996-97) but may do so next year—in case any of you were planning to submit something for publication.

T.S.

DOCTORS *cont. from p. 3*

Earlier in a March 18 letter to the district, Andy Rutizer, president of Accounting Doctors, noted only his BA in English from Temple University.

In the letter he also said that so far as the audit examination had gone, the Doctors had found no major mistakes in the Vavrinek audit.

At the April 1 meeting, Griffin said double checks of earlier work are common practice and that her proposal was not made out of distrust for the Vavrinek firm, but to educate the board. She then suggested that the item should be set aside until all trustees were present.

That's how it stood at Grapevine deadline time. The ratification, presentation and payment may come at the May 6 meeting. Part of the uncertainty about time was due to board schedules the rest of April, and to a report that Rutizer might not sign the contract before going to Tahiti on vacation.

But the signed contract arrived from Accounting Doctors the morning of April 2. So, courtesy of the trustees, Rutizer may recover his vacation costs as soon as he get home.

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 7, Number 2 July, 1997

Rising, Falling into 36th Year

Birthday Balloons

Info Offered

Balloons ready to fly marked campus observance of Grossmont's 35th anniversary. Variety of information included library search methods, offered by Maria Zarcone and Barb Guiette. Ginger Azhocar was a determined participant in the contest for launching watermelon seeds. Taking a tumble at the end of a tug-of-war was one of the vanquished, G.C. President Richard Sanchez.

Seed Launcher

Who's Falling?

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Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

You'll notice in the Letters on this page that Lee Roper's suggestion of more retiree gatherings has brought a positive response, and that September 2 is the date suggested for the first of the informal meetings.

It will be nice if the gathering is large and takes up all available room at McDonald's. Management will be surprised, perhaps nonplussed, to find so many morning patrons, but I'm sure the extra money going into the register will make up for whatever momentary distress occurs.

Conversational topics will be whatever they are wherever you sit down, and they'll end when we decide to leave. Spouses are welcome, so come in pairs if you want . . .

# # # # #

Another subject. I think in an issue of the Grapevine soon after I became editor, I mentioned the quality of assistance I get in putting out the publication. The assistance was, and is first class, and I think it's time I speak again of the assistants.

Sirkka Huovila, whose regular campus work is in Word Processing, puts the Grapevine together, fitting stories and pictures into the space we have, generally where I suggest, but elsewhere if space dictates. Sometimes I marvel at her ability to get in all the material we have, and occasionally to find filler to cover extra space we have. If the Grapevine looks good—and I think it does—much of the credit goes to Sirkka, and I'm glad we have her.

John Dixon is campus photographer, and my requests for photos always get quick actions, whether they're of people in his files or whether they need to be taken by appointment. Sometimes John is asked for a picture illustrative of a campus feature at Grossmont or Cuyamaca, using his own judgment in selection. Two which come to mind are the new transportation facility at Grossmont, and the Highway 125 construction just east of Grossmont.

(*see* EDITOR *p. 3*)

Letters

The following letter was prompted by Lee Roper's poem in the April Grapevine.—Ed.

Grossmont Emeritus Rules Bizarre?

"Emeritus" was originally a status accorded to Roman soldiers who had served their term. At the beginning of the 20th Century, on the four-year college and university levels generally, the status was awarded, without application, to professors who had vacated their position because of long service, age or infirmity. Today, on the same level, it generally refers to tenured professors who retire because of long service, and is a status given without application, but automatically. Where the status is not given wholesale, an institution may select a retiree now and then of particularly distinguished background and make a to-do about the award; there is never an application process. I could find no study of "emeritus" on the community-college level, but, undoubtedly, Grossmont's demand for application is at the least unusual, is probably unique, and certainly bizarre. If Grossmont has actually turned the term on its ear, it should demand historic recognition. If it would, I have no doubt the shades of Roman soldiers would shake with laughter, as some of us living Grossmont retirees have been doing.

- Ray Reynolds

Getting Together

There was positive response to the suggestion that we provide the opportunity for retirees to get together more often. So, let's meet about **9 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month beginning Sept. 2nd** at the McDonald's near the college (corner of Navajo and Lake Murray).

Time, place, etc., are all arbitrary and easily changed. It is open to all faculty, including Fred Tidwell and Ralph Hampton wherever you are. You will have to buy your own 27-cent cup of coffee, but you won't have to be there at sunup or listen to administrators spread bovine chips. Only one suggestion, don't wear your "old fart" hat, this is a class joint.

- Lee Roper

(*see* LETTERS *p. 5*)

Biblio-Files

by Tom Scanlan

It seems that one or the other of my two daughters is always giving me books for Christmas or my birthday which turn out to be among my favorites. Both Karen and Alison have a deep appreciation of the natural world, and the books they give me often reflect this.

Anyway, just a few weeks ago Rosemarie and I made a car trip to Seattle, partly to celebrate my own birthday and also (a few weeks belatedly) the birthdays of my oldest daughter, Karen and her husband, Mark. And to celebrate that Mark had just received his Ph.D. from Berkeley. It was a longer car trip than we normally care to make and we saw lots of rain and logging trucks, but there were many rewards, too, like seeing the spectacular snow capped peaks of Mt. Shasta in northern California, and those of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams along the Columbia River gorge, and even Mt. Rainier and the Cascade and Olympic ranges which are visible from Seattle. On our return trip, we marveled at the redwoods while driving from Grants Pass, Oregon down through Crescent City, California and on to Eureka and Ukiah. What a beautiful country this is.

(*see* BIBLIO-FILES *p. 5*)

The Grapevine is a free newsletter for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly.

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Pat Higgins

Desktop Production and Layout
Sirkka Huovila

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John Dixon

Biblio-Files Column
Tom Scanlan

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Grossmont College
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

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District, Faculty Union Reach New Agreement

Giving up their Memorial Day holiday in favor of climactic negotiations, representatives of the GCCCD and the United Faculty reached agreement on a contract which will be effective until the start of the 2000 fall semester. Negotiations started during the 1996 Fall semester.

The contract is retroactive to the start of the 1996-97 school year. It continues COLA, Cost of Living Adjustment, SIRP, Supplemental Income Retirement Plan, and provides salary increases of about 7 percent for faculty members. The bulk of anticipated growth funds for the district will go for the faculty raises. The new pay schedules were slated for the June 30 pay checks, with a separate check for retroactivity in the summer break.

The District Governing Board ratified the new agreement by a 5-0 vote May 3.

Both Chancellor Jean Atherton and UF President Mel Amov expressed satisfaction with the contract, saying the agreement demonstrates that the Governing Board and the Union are committed to providing quality education within available fiscal resources.

Three Gain Recognition

Visits Britain

Lawrence

Les Lawrence, Grossmont ceramics instructor, has recently returned from a trip to Britain, made at the invitation of the British Crafts Council. He participated in a seminar on printmaking and ceramics with that group. He also lectured at the Edinburgh College of Art, the Cumbria College of Art and Design, and the Royal College of Art in London.

Lawrence, who has been at Grossmont since 1970, is widely known for his work, which involves ceramics, sculpture and silk-screened photographic representations.

Pieces of his work were on display in London while he was there and remained after he returned home. The same art will be on display at the Grossmont College Faculty Art Show, from September 19 to October 10 in the Hyde Gallery.

National Honor

McFarlin

Dr. Annjennette McFarlin, Grossmont College speech professor, has been named Black Educator of the Year for San Diego, by the National Phi Delta Kappa Society.

Hall of Famer

Rump

Bob Rump, former Grossmont tennis coach, was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Hall of Fame in ceremonies in May at UCLA.

Bob, who has coached both men's and women's Griffin teams to many championships in Southern California and the state, is one of only two community college level coaches inducted; the remainders are coaches from four-year schools.

EDITOR (*cont. from p. 2*)

The 35th anniversary pictures in this issue are from the many he took during that celebration. As usual, the pictures are good, and what I said about Sirkka is equally true of John.

I don't count Tom Scanlan as an assistant; he's a contributing editor. What he brings to the Grapevine is an interesting, well thought out, well written feature. Its worth is confirmed by comments of Grapevine readers, and I hope he'll keep writing Biblio-Files for a long time; he'd be missed if he stopped.

Don't mistake the lines above for a valedictory; they're simply some comments which ought to be made publicly now and then. When I say farewell, I'll say it directly.

Ruth Coover Dead Had Suffered Stroke

Professor Emerita Ruth Coover, 82, long-time foreign language teacher at Grossmont College, died June 29 in Grossmont Hospital. She had entered the hospital May 21 after suffering a severe stroke, and for a time appeared to be improving, but her condition worsened and she died.

Ruth was a native of Germany and came to the U.S. in 1950. She had earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Cologne, in Germany, and after coming to America, she got a master's degree at the University of Nebraska. She taught German, French and Latin in Nebraska before coming west. She settled in the San Diego area, and taught in the Grossmont High School District before becoming one of the first Grossmont College faculty members in 1961.

At Grossmont College she taught German and French until she retired in 1984.

Marie James, a department colleague and close friend of Ruth, recalled their relationship. "She was my mentor at Grossmont, and really like a sister," Marie said. "She was my first friend in San Diego, and I knew her for 32 years while we taught together in the German Department."

Don and Joan Scouller, now retired in Tucson, were friends and sometimes travel companions of Ruth. Don recalled how he became acquainted with her.

"I have been Ruth's friend for 32 years. This lady became known to me in a special way, when I went to a special event the college had sometimes, known as an encounter group weekend. It was at the height of the touchy-feely era that heralded the beginning of a brave new world of openness, love, beauty and truth forever.

"Well, maybe. But Ruth and I were there, willing to learn about something bright, new and beautiful, and to shed the constraints and shackles of rigid, authoritarian thinking. By the end of the 24-hour marathon, I was totally exhausted by the mindless exhortations to be free, to tune in and drop out of mindless middle class thinking.

"Well, some of us were too mired in our ways to buy into all of this. But during the long hours I got to know Ruth, and found a kindred spirit. She was always willing to look at new ideas, to weigh and analyze them and finally to accept or reject them on her own terms. We hit it off then, as friends, and remained so to this day. I will miss her in a special way, and be grateful for three decades of true friendship."

Joan Scouller remembered good travel times with Ruth. "Ruth and I shared many travels, some with Don along and some without. I remember particularly celebrating her 70th birthday with her in a little town near Milford Sound, New Zealand. I served her morning coffee and sang "Happy Birthday" to her. We were in adjoining rooms but I had a kitchenette. I'll never forget the happy, surprised look on her face when she answered my knock. We were both still in night clothes.

"Another happy memory of travels with Ruth was when she and I attended an Elderhostel in Oaxaca. Her Spanish, which she didn't claim as one of her four languages, was fluent. We amused ourselves by visiting every pharmacia in Oaxaca, I think, trying to buy pharmaceuticals not available at home, with no success, I might add. She was a dear and special friend. I shall miss her."

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Vonnie Coover-Stone, who said a gathering of her mother's friends is being planned for the end of July, probably during the weekend of July 26-27. Information may be obtained by phoning (619) 463-7228.

Also, A Ruth Coover scholarship is being established at Grossmont. Contributions may be sent to the Scholarship Secretary, Financial Aid, Grossmont College.

Verdict Is Split on Doctors' Value

Reaction remained divided on the merit of the GCCCD hiring the Accounting Doctors, after the Ventura firm presented its findings to the Board May 6 in its check of a previous audit of the district by Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co.

The Accounting Doctors found formula, and cross-footnote errors, along with transposed numbers on seven pages of the 58-page audit.

As had been predicted before the Doctors' examination, no major errors in the audit were found, and that prompted Trustee Rick Alexander to say, "the whole process has been a waste of time and money." Alexander, along with Trustee Ron Kraft, had voted earlier against hiring the Accounting Doctors to do the review, at a cost of $3,750.

In public testimony, D.T. Radmilovich said, "It's still incredible to me and baffling, to have a board of this stature take all this time to find a couple of grammatical errors." Speaking in support of the hiring decision were Waldo and Beverly Clark, parents of Board President Rebecca Clark.

Trustee Carolyn Griffin, who started the whole episode by contacting the Accounting Doctors, then presenting a proposal to the Board March 4, said she was pleased with the May 6 presentation, and that she had wanted to check the District's financial picture on her own.

In a development subsequent to, but not directly attributable to the Accounting Doctors episode, the Board voted to hire KPMG Peat Marwick for the 1996-97 audits. Trustees Alexander and Dr. Timothy Caruthers, along with Jim Austin, Vice Chancellor, Business, explored the District situation, then recommended that the Board hire KPMG Peat Marwick. Citing such advantages as proximity to KPMG offices, along with consulting and advising services, the three found that firm the best to hire. Maximum total cost for three years will be $93,000.

Replacement of one vendor by another is not an every year action by the District, but it is not unusual, and the substitution of KPMG Peat Marwick for Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. might have occurred even if there had been no Accounting Doctors matter.

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District Softball Probe Continues

A district investigation into alleged misconduct by members and coaches of the Grossmont women's softball team may be completed next month. The reported actions prompted GC President Richard Sanchez to forfeit the team's final nine games. Sanchez could not comment on the specifics of the case because of the ongoing investigation, but said he'd have a more complete explanation when the investigation is finished.

♦ ♦ ♦

LETTERS (*cont. from p. 2*)

Agreement

I agree with Lee Roper that unsponsored luncheons during the year are a great idea.

- Marie James

Island Dwelling Fine If No Snow

Guess what: the retirement crew has yet another Nor'wester who weathered the Great Christmas storm. Jan and I were in San Diego on that crisp, dry Christmas day you people enjoyed in 1996, and we drove back up to Washington just in time to hit our home island in the San Juan Archipelago one day after the storm dumped two feet of snow in our driveway. We live on Orcas Island, the third ferry stop out in Washington Sound from Anacortes, WA; our trusty Saturn burrowed its way through 15 miles of unplowed road only to spin out at the bottom of our hill (with assorted Subarus, Hondas and Toyotas).

People tell tales about what Washingtonians do in their native habitat; but the truth is a little less spectacular. The snow shut everything down here; they didn't even plow I-5 in Seattle. The city of Bellingham (on the Canadian border) had NO snowplows. When it really rains, Washingtonians drive worse than Californians on the first rainy day in November. And . . . no one carries umbrellas up here (it never rains that hard, they say); they are as uncool to carry as a cup of weak coffee. You are required to drink Arabica-beaned black stuff made by Starbucks, S.B.C., or Millstone; there are Latte and Espresso stands at every other highway corner.

We enjoyed Tom Scanlan's review of *Snow Falling on Cedars*. As you can imagine, the book is a big favorite up here. The map in the front of the book includes all the real islands in the San Juans and adds a mythical island just south of Lopez called San Piedro. The action takes place in Amity Harbor, which is the thinly-disguised county seat, Friday Harbor. A trial very much like that described in the book actually took place in Anacortes, which is the closest city on the mainland. The Japanese grew strawberries, pears and apples on the mainland and in the islands before the relocation madness of World War II. Commercial agriculture is now almost non-existent in the islands. Most people of Japanese ancestry here now are retired Californians like half of the people who live on Orcas Island.

Why are we here? I suppose the first thing we would have to mention is the unparalleled beauty of the place. We get just enough rain to keep things green: it's strange when your holiday cuttings survive for three months. Rainfall in the islands is about half that of Seattle, a phenomenon caused by the "maritime rain shadow." It is never very warm: spring heatwaves are calculated in the 60s; and the 80s are rare even in July and August. Boating is almost a year-around sport; but you'd need to layer up in December and January. Snowstorms like the December one are rare, but "old timers" talk about the winter of 1991 when old trees went down in 100 mph winds out of Canada. Of course we have our BC up here like we used to have a BC down there; but when the Canadians cross the border, they drive fast new cars and don't light as many fires.

Lee Roper's poem reminds me of one he wrote about me, something about gravy stains on my tie. But I don't remember wearing ties very often at Grossmont. And even though memories fade fast as one hits the big Medicare age group, I can never forget that what made Grossmont College the great place I am sure that Lee is trying to describe was the people who taught there. Only one has visited us so far: Don Shannon, my old friend who retired himself this year. If any of you come by on I-5, at least call us or wave at the ferry.

Stan and Jan Claussen
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BIBLIO-FILES

(*cont. from p. 2*)

So I've just finished reading one of Karen's latest finds, an extraordinary book of short stories, Ship Fever, by Andrea Barrett (1996, Norton paperback). They are fictional stories but are based on real people and real history, mostly nineteenth century naturalists (we'd probably call them biologists or doctors today). You need no background in science or its history to appreciate these stories about the struggles and passions of dedicated humans involved in their search for knowledge about the natural world and themselves. Andrea has brought these people to life and has made real to the reader their successes—and their failures. The title story, actually a novella, is wisely saved for the end, like a fine dessert. It's an absolute gem of a story—although a real heart-breaker—about a Canadian doctor and the two women he loves, each desperately trying in their own way to help the overwhelming tide of immigrants from the great Irish potato famine of the mid-nineteenth century. Talk about bringing history to life—WOW!!

In my first *Biblio-files* column (November, 1994) I stated that Wallace Stegner was one of my favorite authors and I briefly described some of his more popular novels, such as Angle of Repose and my own favorite, Crossing to Safety. Just a few months ago, Viking Press published an excellent biography, Wallace Stegner, His Life and Work, by Jackson Benson, a professor of American Literature at San Diego State University.

BIBLIO-FILES (*cont. next page*)

BIBLIO-FILES (*cont. from p. 5*)

Benson began working with Stegner back in 1986. Stegner was reluctant about having his biography done but had warmly reviewed Benson's award winning biography of John Steinbeck for the Los Angeles Times, and so he gave Benson the go-ahead, with unlimited access to his own papers. They met each year to work on the project until Stegner's death in 1993. It is a beautifully written biography, very thorough but written in a conversational style with numerous anecdotes and conversations. Benson illustrates so clearly the powerful influence of the environment on Wallace Stegner's life and on the stories he wrote, as well as Stegner's signigicant achievements in influencing environmental issues

If you haven't read a Stegner novel yet, you might want to start with his first novel , Remembering Laughter, published in 1937. It won him Little Brown's Novelette prize of $2500, a magnificent sum in those days for a struggling English instructor whose wife, Mary, was only days away from delivering their first child, Page. Out of print for many decades, the novella was recently re-released last year in paperback by Penguin Books. The story relates how the loneliness and beauty of a remote Iowa farm affect a young woman who has just come there to live with her older married sister. She becomes attracted to her sister's husband, who drinks too much, but treats her very kindly, and the story grows out of these circumstances.

Sometimes a good film or BBC production will revive my interest in an older classic which I'd read (often only partially) under duress as an assignment in a high school or college English course. A recent example was the BBC production of Daphne DuMaurier's Rebecca, the quintessential Gothic Mystery Romance novel which was published in 1938. On my first attempt to read it (nearly 50 years ago), I had considered it to be a 'girl's book' and turned instead to Jack London or Zane Grey (or worse, Mickey Spillane). I was so taken with the BBC production, however, especially the coastal English countryside setting for Manderley and the *marvelous* portrayal of the sinister Mrs. Danvers by Diana Rigg, that I checked out a copy of Rebecca from the library. I enjoyed reading the novel as much as any that I've read recently. DuMaurier is a far better writer than I had remembered and the story and characters very much came to life for me. Mystery and romance fans will probably already have read this novel, but this is a modern classic that no reader should skip.

Another example of the film version of a novel being good enough to encourage viewers to read (or re-read) the book is The Milagro Beanfield War. I had read the book before seeing the film and thoroughly enjoyed the story, which was based on an actual confrontation between long time Hispanic ranchers in northern New Mexico and a vacation-site developer who is threatening their water supply. However, the characters are what *really* make this a delightful book to read. They are sometimes funny, sometimes serious, sometimes romantic, sometimes sad—and sometimes they dredge deeply from their human spirit and perform miracles. When I heard that Robert Redford was trying to create a close version of the book at his SunDance Studio by doing much of the filming in a small New Mexico town not far from where the event which inspired the story occurred, I was one of the first in line to see the film when it premiered at a Mission Valley theater. The film was outstanding, but as often happens with non-Hollywood films, it never made the rounds of our local theaters. The Milagro Beanfield War, published in 1974, was the first novel of John Nichol's 'New Mexico trilogy', the second and third novels being The Magic Journey and The Nirvana Blues. Although the latter two novels had their moments, I didn't enjoy either of them nearly as much as 'Milagro.' If you missed the film, read the book. It might just inspire you to search for the video. Both will leave your own spirit a little bit lighter and happier.

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 7, Number 3 November, 1997

Chancellor to Retire, GC President Will Stay

Dr. Jeanne Atherton

One of the most bitter battles in the history of the GCCCD has apparently ended with the announcement by Chancellor Jeanne Atherton that she will retire, an announcement by Carolyn Griffin that she will resign her seat on the District Board, and GC President Richard Sanchez secure in his office through the full term of his contract.

The battle began when Chancellor Atherton recommended to the Board that Sanchez' contract be terminated June 30, 1998, a year earlier than June 30, 1999, its designated date.

The Board accepted the Chancellor's recommendation, and on August 5, the members voted 3-2 to shorten the contract, Board President Rebecca Clark, with Trustees Rick Alexander and Ron Kraft also voting for the termination. Trustees Carolyn Griffin and Timothy Caruthers voted against the recommendation.

But the Board's action drew widespread reaction, much of it adverse. Individuals and groups, including the Grossmont College Faculty Senate, called for the Board to undo its action, and on September 16, the Board voted to rescind its termination action, thus assuring Sanchez of his tenure continuing until at least June 30, 1999.

In mid-October, the Chancellor announced that she will retire, but not immediately. She set the date for June 30, 1998. She said her decision to retire was not new, and that she had made the decision earlier. She had intended to withhold announcing it until next spring, but campus events, with their accompanying focus on her, had persuaded her to announce the retirement earlier.

Her complaints about Sanchez included an evaluation score by him lower than she thought adequate, failing to support her decisions and neglecting long-term planning.

Historically, the Chancellor has had a rough row to hoe, particularly with the Grossmont faculty, which last year voted no-confidence in her. However, she has said about criticism that she was carrying out Board directions in her actions.

Dr. Richard Sanchez

Carolyn Griffin, who voted against the Atherton move to terminate Sanchez, has been the subject of controversy at times during her time as a Board member. Earlier this year she privately contacted an accounting firm to check the Board's earlier audit by another firm. The second audit was made at her behest, with no major errors discovered.

The Board will have to select a replacement for the remainder of her term, or conduct a special election to elect a successor.

Of his situation, Sanchez says he's happy, and the recent events have not lessened his enthusiasm and that his contact with the Chancellor will be as professional and collegial as possible.

Roper's Roundup

October retirees' get-together brought more than 20 to Coco's restaurant for eating, drinking, and talking, mostly talking.

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

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LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Committees at Grossmont, Cuyamaca, and District have approved these new logos for their future use.

Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

Lee Roper probably didn't think about it with the long run in mind, but he may have started a GCCCD tradition built on coffee.

So far, his suggestion that retirees meet informally for coffee on the first Tuesday of each month has been met with growing acceptance. The first gathering on September 2 at McDonald's, on Lake Murray, numbered about a dozen retirees.

The second group, who met at Coco's at Navajo and Fanita, numbered more than 20. This issue will be in production when the third meeting is held, so I can't give you the attendance figure for November, but I'd take a bet now that the attendance will have increased again.

If you haven't made any of the meetings, I think you'll have missed some pleasant times chatting idly—or with serious purpose if you want—with former colleagues whom you've seen too seldom since you left Cuyamaca or Grossmont.

Coco's is a good place for meeting; long tables accommodate most of the group, but there also are booths which can handle the overflow from the tables. You can order only coffee, or you can have breakfast.

Three or four spouses were in attendance at the October meeting; it would be nice to have a few more, so bring your husband or wife for a pleasant hour or so, and to keep the Roper tradition going.

* * *

Last issue, in pointing to the excellence of the Grapevine staff, I said that when I wanted out as editor I'd say so. Now is that time. I've been editor for three years—astounding as that seems in retrospect—and I want to spend the Grapevine time on some other things.

(*see* **EDITOR** *p. 4*)

EMF Hazards Banished

The task of mitigating electromagnetic fields on the Grossmont College campus, begun two years ago, is complete or nearing completion at Grapevine publication time. Two professional contractors, Tim Brindley of Brindley Electrical Services, and Karl Riley of ELF Magnetic Surveys, are the contractors who have been working to finish the campus ELF mitigation, according to Charles Seymour, Risk Management Director.

The project began in the spring of 1995, after concern was voiced by David Wing, GC photography instructor, about high EMF readings in the GC Library he had detected on a walkthrough using a gaussmeter measuring device. Subsequently, the Chancellor's Cabinet voted to engage independent contractors to inspect the campus buildings and to remedy any spots which might be dangerous. Worry about campus EMF output as hazardous should now be gone.

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Biblio-files

by Tom Scanlan

The weather was perfect on Long Island when we visited relatives in the small New York community of Dix Hills this October. Almost no rain, plenty of gold and red in the oak and maple forests, and air that was cool enough to drink and yet not so cold that we needed gloves on a morning walk. Crows and jays woke us each morning, and sometimes we'd hear a distant honking and look up to see a flock of geese flapping overhead in that loose V-formation they prefer. The faint pungent smell of burning leaves confirmed that we were indeed experiencing a genuine east coast autumn. And autumn, with its longer evenings, is when many of us start resolving seriously to go through that stack of unread books, some gathering dust since last Christmas (and now we know why they call those paper covers 'dust jackets').

But as much as I love this time of year back East, I always come home to San Diego knowing that the West is really where I want to live year-round. The four books I'm recommending this issue are all stories with western settings, and that western setting is as much a part of the story as the characters who dramatize it.

For those of you who always wanted to read Larry McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize winning Lonesome Dove but were intimidated by its size, he wrote a little gem of a novel way back in 1962 called Leaving Cheyenne which is just as memorable and only one-third as long. This novel, like others of McMurtry's novels (e.g., The Last Picture Show), deals with the impact of new ways on the old ways of life. Set in west Texas, it's a love triangle involving a serious-minded rancher, Gideon Fry; his rambunctious cowboy friend, Johnny McCloud; and the impressionable but independent woman they both love, Molly Taylor. The story is told from

(*see* **BIBLIO-FILES** *p. 4*)

Cuyamaca to Host New Senior Sessions

by Leon Hoffman

Upon my retirement, my wife told me, "Lee, I married you for better or for worse, but not for lunch. You've always been busy, so keep doing something to keep yourself busy."

I was invited to a workshop at Cuyamaca College given by Dr. Diana Kelly, District Associate Dean of Continuing Education, who's based at Cuyamaca. Erv Metzgar also attended the workshop. We both found the subject very interesting and challenging, and we both decided to follow through to help Dr. Kelly develop her ideas into a worthwhile program for our community.

Erv and I brought in four top-notch leaders in our local senior community to form an ad hoc committee to work out the details based on input from the 35 people who had attended the original workshop. Our group consists of Dr. Kelly; Metzgar, President Emeritus of Grossmont College and active in many civic organizations; Phoebe Burnham, wife of Bob Burnham, late District Superintendent, and a strong community leader in her own right; Lois French, active community leader in many organizations; Diane Beene, Mt. Miguel Covenant Village Management Team; Genie Thompson, assistant editor of Senior World News Magazine and an expert on senior educational programs; and me. I'm Professor Emeritus, Grossmont College, and in charge of Senior Ministries, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Spring Valley.

Actually, we have begun work on two separate projects. The first is a series of six non-credit, no-fee senior-oriented courses of various lengths to begin in the spring, 1998 semester.

(*see* **CUYAMACA** *p. 5*)

Governor Wilson Signs Important STRS Bill

by Tom Scanlan

Governor Wilson signed **SB 1026** (Shiff-D) STRS Purchasing Power into law on October 12. This bill increases the *purchasing power protection* for STRS long-retired teachers from the current 68.2 percent to 75 percent. It will be funded partially from the recent sale of the Elk Hills Petroleum Reserve.

Existing law requires revenues from school lands at Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve to be deposited in the School Land Bank Fund and interest earnings to be transmitted to the Teachers' Retirement Fund for distribution by the Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account. The new law provides that the proceeds of the Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account shall be distributed annually in *quarterly supplemental payments to retired members, disabled members, and beneficiaries to restore purchasing power up to 75% of the purchasing power of their initial monthly allowances.*

Because the STRS annual adjustment is a *simple* (uncompounded) 2 percent, purchasing power begins to erode the day we retire, even at current low rates of inflation. Here's an example of how this works. The average annual inflation rate over the past several decades has been about 5 percent, *compounded*. Suppose that your STRS retirement benefit is $30,000 the year you retire, and that is exactly what it costs you to live (your 'cost of living'). At 5 percent *compounded*, your cost of living would increase to $48,867 in ten years. Your STRS income would only increase to $36,000 during that same time period (2% of 30,000 each year = $600 x 10 = $6000 increase). If you compare $36,000 to $48,867 (divide), you'll find that your retirement benefit in ten years is only 73.7 % of your 'cost of living.' In just under ten years, your purchasing power has dropped below

(*see* **WILSON** *p. 5*)

Prison Years OK for Burke

It may surprise you to know that Dr. Dale A. Burke, long-time GCCCD Trustee, has been released from Centinela State Prison after a 3½-year stint behind the prison's walls.

True, but the whole truth is that the prison stay was served willingly, as Dr. Burke took care of inmates' teeth as an employee of the State of California.

He joined the prison staff in November, 1993, after he sold his Fletcher Hills dental practice which he'd begun in La Mesa in 1959. He had decided that he wanted to get away from the pressure that comes with the business aspects of private practice, though he recalls with pleasure the fact that he had good patients through the years.

He applied for a dental position with the state, and found himself with one other dentist as the dental staff of Centinela Prison, which was about as new as he was.

"I wondered what I was getting into," he said recently, particularly because he had been his own boss for years. But he found that the new job agreed with him. He worked from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., five days a week at first, then went on a four-day week of 10-hour days.

His patients were all prisoners, but they appeared to bear him no animosity, because he was not a guard. There probably would have been animosity if the dentist had been also a guard.

Still, he had some office security—of a sort. Medical-technical assistants and vocational nurses assigned to the office were given stars to wear, which made them security personnel. Dr. Burke wonders how much security one small woman would have been if

(*see* **PRISON YEARS** *p. 5*)

Career Week

GC students got the word on dozens of career possibilities during Career Week. Medical service was one field which brought experts to the campus; picture on the left. Added attractions included a fashion show by Macy's, with GC participants Sirkka Huovila and Barb Guiette on the right.

Nancy Davis and Teri Feller got credit for producing outstanding Career Week.

EDITOR *cont. from p. 2*

Editing the Grapevine has been a pleasant chore for me, and I think it will be for whoever succeeds me. We have excellent regular staffers, Sirkka Huovila for production and John Dixon for photography. Tom Scanlan does his column, Biblio-Files for each issue and occasionally, as in this issue, he contributes a story. Occasionally, also, we have contributions from somebody in the retiree ranks, as Leon Hoffman this issue. So, as editor, you wouldn't be alone in producing the publication.

Nobody in authority in the GCCCD has ever told me what could or could not run in the Grapevine, so up to now censorship never has been a problem, and I think that happy situation will continue.

There is pay for the job—not as much as I think the time involved is worth, but enough so that you don't feel you're doing it for free.

To ease you into the editor position, I'd take the responsibility for the next issue, April 1998, with you as assistant editor. After that you'd be on your own—except, of course, for Sirkka, John, and Tom. If you prefer, I'll be assistant editor for the first issue, or you can do it alone. I wouldn't be unhappy with that plan.

Feedback over the years has indicated you've enjoyed getting and reading the Grapevine. We don't want it to fall by the wayside. We need a good editor, and certainly there are some among you who are capable of being that editor. Let us know, so we can put the Grapevine into good hands with the knowledge that it will continue to be a publication worth reading.

For answers to questions, or to bid to be editor, please contact Tom Scanlan or me by phone or by letter. Tom's phone number is (619) 447-3934. His address is 1654 View Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.

My phone number is (619) 461-8856, and my address is 6618 Sunny Brae Drive, San Diego, CA 92119.

Speak Up! This is your chance.

BIBLIO-FILES
cont. from p. 2

TomTales

the point of view of each of these three characters and encompasses a period of forty years, during which time Molly bears each of them a child. It is a story where friendship and love are so closely entwined that you're never quite sure how the story will end, or even how you'd want it to end.

Moving further west, Barbara Kingsolver's best-selling first novel, The Bean Trees (1988), unfolds in Tucson, Arizona. A gutsy and outspoken young woman, Taylor Greer, has left her native Kentucky to strike out on her own rather than succumb to the dreary fate of her peers, where getting pregnant young and marrying the wrong man seems to be the norm. While sputtering west in a relic VW, she becomes the unwilling 'mother' of a Native American infant, whom she names Turtle. Out of money and with two flat tires, the two of them start a new life together in Tucson by moving in with a woman whose 'almost husband' has just left her (with baby, of course). They also meet some people who are helping refugees from the death squads in Guatemala, and begin to realize that their own problems are minor compared to those of so many others. Although the characters in this novel face unusual hardships, they are determined to maintain their sense of independence and humor. You can't help but like these individuals and admire their spirit. And Kingsolver's use of language is almost poetic. This book is an easy and enjoyable way to restore your faith in the power of friendships.

If you like Bean Trees, then you might want to also read Kingsolver's Pigs in Heaven (1993), and follow the adventures of Taylor and Turtle (now six years old) when they eventually return to their roots in Kentucky and Oklahoma. A young Cherokee lawyer has questioned the validity of Turtle's 'adoption' because of laws requiring sanctioning by the Cherokee tribe. Now Taylor and her adopted child must confront the complications of how Turtle came to be part of Taylor's family and the meaning of what it is to be a Native American in the late twentieth century.

(*see* **BIBLIO-FILES** *next page*)

BIBLIO-FILES *cont. from p. 4*

Finally, we come all the way to the west coast with Anne Lamott's new novel, Crooked Little Heart (1997), the story of a thirteen year old California girl, Rosie, a junior tennis champ who actually believes that she's a loser in life. Her best friend, Simone, is more mature and attractive to boys and has a more natural talent for tennis. Determined not to be a loser, Rosie begins to cheat against her tennis opponents. It's a classic 'coming of age' novel, where Rosie must face the changes that come with the developing sexuality and changing interests of her friends and herself. It is complicated by a home situation where the stepfather and mother have their own problems, and by a shadowy figure, Luther, who seems to be stalking Rosie at her various tennis tournaments. This story line may not turn you on, but you will positively enjoy Lamott's writing. She can be very funny and seems to have really gotten inside Rosie's head. It might just have something to do with the fact that Anne Lamott was herself a teenage tournament tennis player in California.

I received another charming letter from Doris Alexander in which she mildly chastises me for not calling her and Alex the last time I was in Seattle (where does the time go?!) and then goes on to suggests additional titles for my reading pleasure. They include Felicia's Journey by William Trevor, a brilliantly written tale of Irish misery and sex; A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines, a heartbreaker about a black youth who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and faces his wrong condemnation with dignity; Wise Blood by Flannery O'Connor (a master of dark humor and the deep South) about a woman who founds 'the Church Without Christ' but discovers otherwise; and Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt, a book about growing up poor in Dublin—which I've been dying to read but not until I get through that stack of books that sit on my reading table making me feel guilty each time I read a magazine instead. Thank goodness for the return of autumn's longer evenings!

CUYAMACA *cont. from p. 3*

They're titled, "Intergenerational Dialogue"; "An Introduction to Theater"; "The Writing Workshop"; "New Frontiers in Medicine"; "Outwitting Con Artists and Muggers"; and "Enrich Your Environment."

We are currently developing course descriptions and outlines for these six courses and enlisting the help of some qualified instructors to teach them.

The second project ties in with the national Elderhostel program. It is a variation on the popular model established by Elderhostel Inc., directed to the local community of seniors. In this way, we won't have to provide the housing and meals, which will allow us to greatly reduce the costs to each participant. This program is called "The Institute for Learning in Retirement." So far we haven't come up with the course subjects, but we are working on the task. Hopefully, this program will be ongoing, and Erv and I will stay involved. It's expected that most sessions will be at Cuyamaca

It's is our feeling that our district has invested a lot in us over the years, as well as providing our livelihood. We are simply giving back a little, while keeping our minds active and having a lot of fun. There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available if you are interested. If you are, call Erv, Dr. Kelly at 660-4355, or me.

Editor's Note: Leon Hoffman taught 27 years in the Administration of Justice program at Grossmont.

WILSON *cont. from p. 3*

75% of what it was when you retired, so now you'd begin to receive quarterly supplements which would maintain it at the 75% level for the duration of your life (or that of your surviving beneficiary). Completing this example, 75% of $48,867 (your 'cost of living') is $36,650. Based on this amount, you'd receive four quarterly supplements totalling $650 (the difference between your actual STRS income of $36,000 and the 75% amount, $36,650).

Some of you will benefit immediately from the passage of this bill. Those of us who retired more recently won't have to wait long because the current low rates of inflation are an anomaly. Any way you figure it, this new law is good news for all STRS retirees.

PRISON YEARS *cont. from p. 3*

some large prisoner had become unruly while having his teeth fixed. But that never happened, and the dentists felt little, if any, tension while they worked.

At the start, there was a shortage of dental instruments, so the work was limited to simple procedures. But the needed instruments came, and the range of procedures widened considerably. Dr. Burke and his colleague got into a routine in which examinations and simple procedures were done in the morning, in the afternoon they did extractions, put in crowns and did other complex work. They did up to 18 examinations in the morning and four or five jobs in the afternoon.

Then Dr. Burke decided to retire entirely from dentistry and he left Centinela last May.

Back in his home area, he continues his interest in the GCCCD, but pretty much as an onlooker, not as a participant, as he was in his years on the District Board, 1971-1992. He left with the distinction he still holds, as the longest-serving member in the history of the District.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 8, Number 1 April, 1998

Eyes of Texas Now Upon Him All the Live-long Day

Dr. Richard Sanchez is alive and well in Texas.

He became a Texan in early March when he stepped into the presidency of Navarro College in Corsicana, after resigning as president of Grossmont College in mid-February.

His resignation came as a surprise to many, on and off the Grossmont campus, partly because his status had been vindicated only a few months earlier, when district board members reversed their earlier action to terminate his contract.

But Dr. Sanchez had qualms about what might happen when his contract was up, feeling that the trustees might not renew it. Trustees Rick Alexander and Ron Kraft both indicated they had doubts about a future for Sanchez at Grossmont. Sanchez said he didn't want to be in the position of wondering, so he decided to quit and seek another job.

He contacted a consultant and learned of the presidential opening at Navarro, a school of 11,000 students in Corsicana, about 50 miles south of Dallas. He told the Grapevine that he was one of five finalists for the job, and he was chosen after a long interview with faculty members and administrators, an open forum with 60 members of the Corsicana public, who also queried his wife, and a four-hour session with the seven members of the district board.

Navarro has about 4,500 students seeking credits, Sanchez said; the remainder of the 11,000 are taking non-credit courses. At the moment, the college plans to put science, arts and technology students into one big building on the campus in an effort to better integrate the disciplines.

Navarro's district has a population of 260,000 residents, and the school is much more a live-in institution than Grossmont, having 14 dormitories on the campus. It feeds Texas A&M, Baylor and Oklahoma Universities.

Soon after he was given the Navarro job, Dr. Sanchez and his wife picked out a house on two-plus acres, 12 minutes from the college, so the chore of buying was completed before he returned for his final days at Grossmont, and the couple were in their new home before he started work March 2.

Reminder: Banquet to Honor Retirees on May 8

You should have received a flyer last month announcing the district's banquet to honor the latest retirees (1997 and 1998). It will be held at the Bali Hai restaurant, cocktails at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM, on Friday, May 8. All retirees are invited, but tickets *must* be purchased ahead of time (they will not be available at the door). The cost is $15 if you purchase them by April 15, afterwards $18.95 until May 1 deadline. Honorees (see list below) are free, but will need to purchase tickets for any guests they might bring. If you have any questions, call Lori Carver at (619) 644-7710.

The thirty-nine retirees being honored at this banquet are: Robert Akers, Jeanne Atherton, Chris Bona, Ann Burgess, Gloria Claesson, Jacqualine Couch, Frank DeGraff, JoAnn Dutton, Roberta Eddins, Brenda Elliott, William Givens, Wayne Harmon, Sid Herzig, James Hinkley, Judith Hodgson, Robert Holden, Jeanne Hyde, Julie Kuhl, Joan Lieblein, Catherine Magee, Joan Mayuiers, Delos McCoole, Clark Mires, John Morley, Gene Murray, Curtis Nichols, Joanne Prescott, Keith Richardson, Glenda Richter, Paul Rodriguez, Felix Rogers, Clarence Scott, Don Shannon, Jean Sprunt, Charlie Thompson, Eleanor Tucker, Marlen Valderhaug, Mary Wilson and Elaine Wolfe.

Put on your favorite Aloha shirt or Mu Mu and join the festivities!!

Editor's Notes

by Pat Higgins

The first thing to say is that the Grapevine now has co-editors.

I failed in my quest for an editor to replace me this year, but Tom Scanlan took pity, and offered to take half the job for the April, July and November issues of the Grapevine. I quickly accepted the offer, and as I write this we haven't had a single difference of opinion about what we'll do with this issue. Of course we haven't made many decisions, so there's still time.

I think the arrangement is a half-step in the right direction. My diminishing spirit of public service will probably have vanished by the end of November. Knowing Tom to be a pretty selfless fellow, I think the odds are even that his selflessness will prompt him to return to his former post as sole editor. He may want to express his thoughts on the situation when he fills this column in our July issue.

In addition to our stellar regulars, Sirkka Huovila and John Dixon, we're indebted this issue to Leon Hoffman. Leon took the pictures at the going-away party for Dr. Richard Sanchez. John Dixon had already been assigned to videotape the party, so he couldn't shoot pictures for us. Leon, consented to help, as he always does when asked. So, we have pictures, and you have our thanks, Leon.

Bibliophiles

by Tom Scanlan

Beginning with this column, there'll be a rating scale of sorts. Ratings of books are always going to be subjective but I've found that such a scale has been a useful guide to me (most of the time, anyway) when it comes to movies. I'm not really sure it will work with books because they allow so much more individual imagination than any film, but it's worth a trial.

* **poor** Don't read it! Why did I waste my time?
** **fair** So-so; read it only if you really like the author.
*** **good** Worthwhile, average; read it if you have time.
**** **very good** Read it; you'll really like it.
***** **outstanding** A *must* read; turn off the TV and get started now!

As a change of pace, this review begins with a couple of non-fiction books by a very popular author and TV personality, Depak Chopra. Following that is my review of a best seller which is *still* on the New York Times' top ten list in nonfiction.

Ageless Body, Timeless Mind; Depak Chopra (Harmony Books, 1993) ***

I'm a longtime skeptic when it comes to self-help books and most of the New Age writings, but I'd read some interesting things about Depak Chopra and since the Sixties I've always had at least a passing interest in Asian philosophy and religion. And with my background in physics and astronomy, the sub-title, 'The Quantum Alternative to Growing Old' was intriguing (as well as the fact that I'm not getting any younger).

Although it's a mixture of medical science (Chopra is a licensed medical doctor), physical science (only a smattering) and Eastern medical and meditation practices, I found the book informative, up-to-date, and a worthwhile read. Within the book there are summaries of numerous medical studies, usually followed by Chopra's connecting them to his own beliefs and those of Eastern medicine. This is sometimes followed by a questionnaire or a list of recommended activities for the reader.

Bibliophiles cont. on p. 5

Think First Tuesday

The first Tuesday of the month continues to be the social focus of Grossmont-Cuyamaca retirees, who gather for coffee each month at Coco's Restaurant, Navajo and Fanita, around 9 a.m.

The gatherings, suggested last year by Lee Roper, have been held for seven consecutive months—April will be eight—and there's no sign of them fading away. Attendance has varied from about two dozen to about a dozen. There's been no dearth of animated conversation, as former colleagues have shared reports of present activities with recollections of what used to be.

April 7 is the date for the next gathering—if you're a Grossmont or Cuyamaca retiree, it's for you, so be on hand—you'll enjoy the time.

The Grapevine is a free newsletter for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly.

Co-editors
Pat Higgins, Tom Scanlan

Desktop Production and Layout
Sirkka Huovila

Photography
John Dixon

Biblio-Files Column
Tom Scanlan

To submit news items, articles or photographs of interest to GCCCD retirees, mail them to:
The Grapevine
Grossmont College
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

The Grapevine is published in November, April and July. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.

Sanchez
Griffin Gate Gathering: Friends' Fond Farewell

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Grounds Supervisor Drafton Dunlap Taken

Drafton Dunlap, Grossmont grounds supervisor and a member of the college's maintenance force for 28 years, died of heart failure February 9. He was 63.

In addition to two strokes, he suffered lung cancer, detected only three weeks before his death.

He is survived by his wife, Pretretia, a stepdaughter, Myeisha, and two sons, Terrell and Cedric.

Drafton began work at Grossmont in May, 1968, and retired in March 1996.

Senior electronics technician John Aderholt was one of Drafton's colleagues who knew him best and, for good reasons, appreciated him most.

"I knew Drafton in 1975," Aderholt said. "In 1975, I was going through a divorce, and it was the lowest point of my life. Drafton wasn't a learned man, but he invited me to work with him, and he helped keep my mind and body off my trouble. He knew what I needed then, and was my best friend, though it took me a decade to realize it.

"He and I had one thing in common to start. We were both small town boys. I came from a little town in Florida, and he came from a little town in Arkansas. At his funeral, the minister said it right—Drafton was a big man, but a sweet man."

New Directory Coming

A new directory of GCCCD retirees is in the final stages of production, and is expected to be ready for distribution by mid-June.

Lori Carver, Risk Management assistant, who is in charge of the project, says the directory will include retirees listed in the current book published in 1994, along with subsequent retirees who have indicated they want to be included in a new listing. They, as well as those who do not want to be included, have indicated their preferences by replying to a question from Lori at the time of retirement.

Those who may have changed their minds, either in favor or against inclusion in the new book, may get their wishes by calling Lori at 644-7710 and letting her know. She also may be reached via e-mail: Lori_Carver@gcccd.gc.ca.us Those scheduled to retire in June also may express their wishes about inclusion by calling Lori within the next couple of weeks. It's expected that the new listing will be about the same size, or slightly larger than the current number of 138 names. If you use the internet, you may want to send Lori your e-mail address for inclusion in the directory. Deadline for submissions is May 15.

The new book will be mailed to all retirees whether or not they are listed.

Grapevine Returns to the Internet

by Tom Scanlan

After a hiatus of over two years, the GCCCD Grapevine is once again available on the internet at the Grossmont College website, under Publications. The URL at the time of this writing is:
http://www.gcccd.cc.ca.us/grossmont/Publications/Publications.html

You may find the old November 95 issue still languishing there, so be sure to select the November 1997 issue, and with a bit of luck, this current issue may already be posted, too.

The district hasn't had a designated website author since early 1996 so we were unable to format our more recent issues for uploading on the district server. I began to teach myself web authoring a few weeks ago and then practiced it by setting up a homepage at geocities, a free internet site which provides 3MB of storage (my homepage URL there is **http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Museum/2852**). With some help from Kats Gustafson at Grossmont's IMC (she was instrumental in setting up the library's CATL room, the Center for Advancement of Teaching and Learning), I learned a few more essentials, including how to use Navigator Gold's web editor—which makes web authoring much easier than I had imagined. This enabled me to format the November 1997 Grapevine in HTML (so that it can be viewed by browsers) and Kats loaded it into the Grossmont server on March ?

I hope to do this with each new issue, and retain the older issues in an onsite archive for those who wish to consult back issues. In time, maybe the district will hire a full time web author and we can load in all of our back issues from day one.

So tell your friends and relatives who like to surf the web that they can now read this magnificent publication whenever they like. And for those of you who have been reluctant to write us a letter or article, keep in mind that now your words will have an international audience!

Bibliophiles
cont. from p. 2

The philosophical concept of timeless existence and methods to at least slow down the aging process are two primary themes throughout this book. His outlook on aging is quite positive compared to the Western norm, and may change your own attitude about "getting old."
I can't say that I buy into some of his suggestions, particularly from Eastern medicine, but I came away from this book feeling that I had learned something, and with a somewhat different outlook on existence and on aging, and with a resolve to at least be more open-minded about alternative medical and health practices.

The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success, Depak Chopra (New World Library, 1994) ***
Depak Chopra is a prolific and popular writer, and if you've wondered why and thought maybe you should read one of his works, this is not a bad place to start. This is a small book but is includes some very powerful suggestions on how to improve the spiritual if not the material quality of your life. It's an interesting merge of Eastern religion and philosophy with Western spirituality but should appeal to anyone interested in examining their own life, however briefly.
Chopra writes that if we will just learn to live in harmony with natural law (which he defines his own way), then a sense of well-being, good health, fulfilling relationships, energy and enthusiasm for life, and material abundance will spring forth easily and effortlessly. I've never been overly concerned with achieving material 'abundance' but the other goals are all important and certainly worthwhile. More important, these writings may put you a little more at ease with yourself and the way things are and help you lead a more relaxed existence.

Although purportedly directed toward increasing your wealth, the real value of this book is that it just might help you become a nicer person (which may or may not be connected with material success). On that basis alone, I would recommend this book to almost anyone.

Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt (Scribner, 1996) ****
This is Frank McCourt's first book, a memoir of his first nineteen years, which won a Pulitzer Prize and several other literary awards. It was a difficult book for me to review because I had very mixed feelings about it by the time I finished reading it. I was impressed immediately with his writing style, which puts the reader totally into young Frank's head—but I was ready to put the book down after reading *over and over and over* just how miserable his childhood was. Still, it merits four (of five) stars primarily on the basis of his writing, which succeeds marvelously in transporting the reader to the time and place and circumstances of Frank's youth.

Frank was born in depression era Brooklyn, the offspring of a chance encounter between two poor Irish immigrants who had each recently arrived in New York. His father, reluctantly forced into marrying his pregnant bride, has a major drinking problem and that pretty much seals his family's fate insofar as any financial support is concerned. Unable to hold a job, he takes his family back to Ireland, jumping from the proverbial frying pan into the fire.

What follows is the detailed experience of a boy's growing up poor, Irish and Catholic under circumstances that would seem hopeless to all but a child. Young Frank manages to make friends, finish school, look after his siblings, and find odd jobs, all the while scavenging for firewood and scrounging for food. Later he learns about the not always admirable ways of the Catholic church toward his people, discovers literature, deals with puberty (again, *over and over and over*) and experiences several short-lived love affairs.

Parts of the book are quite depressing but there's enough humor (often rather dark) throughout the story to rescue the reader when needed. It's a book I wanted to read and I'm glad that I did, but I'm not sure I'd read it again soon—and I wouldn't recommend it to everyone. If you are interested in writing, are male, of Irish extraction, and had a Catholic upbringing (or have a spouse or close friend who fits that pattern), it is a book you definitely should read. Otherwise, I'm not so sure. But if you do read it, put on a nice CD of Altan or some similar Irish musical group—and make sure there's a Guiness in the fridge.

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JC

GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 8, Number 2 July, 1998

Banquet for Retirees a Sellout

It was a packed house at the Bali Hai on May 8. That Friday evening, 155 district staff and retirees honored the latest district retirees with a Hawaiian banquet. The weather was a bit cool for the Hawaiian motif but the upbeat crowd didn't seem to mind. The buffet was excellent, there was plenty of opportunity to socialize and the kahunas had put together an entertaining program of slides and 'testimonials' honoring the new retirees. Several attendees felt it was the best such banquet ever.

Chuck Seymour emceed and Barry Winn served as a kind of Queen *Hame*amea, showing slides and commenting on each of the new retirees. Special credit is due the committee who worked so hard to make this banquet such a success. Committee members were: Yvonne Board, Karen Bishop, Lori Carver, Gloria Claesson, Sirkka Huovila, Alba Orr, Chuck Seymour, Jackie Winn, Barry Winn, Tony Zambelli and Maria Zarcone. John Dixon helped with the slides.

The accompanying photos were mostly taken by Lisa Scott with some help from Lori Carver and Bob Claesson. *(more pictures on page 4 & 5)*

Queen Hameamea (aka Barry Winn)

Robert Holden and Board Member Rick Alexander

Terry Volz, Joanne Prescott, Toni Mueller, Shirley and George Jones

Retiree Benefits at Grossmont College; How Do They Compare?

by Tom Scanlan

The Grossmont Cuyamaca Community College District approved a package of benefits for all retirees in July, 1989 which currently provides the following:

- A "gold" identification card which also identifies the spouse if applicable
- Free staff parking
- Free library card
- Tuition reimbursement for retirees and their spouses taking regular classes
- A 50% discount on Extended College classes
- Bookstore discounts, except texts
- Discounted non-litigious attorney service
- Use of campus athletic facilities (must enroll in applicable class)
- Invitation to retirement activities
- Professor Emeritus/a status for qualified certificated retirees
- In previous years, discounts were available to on-campus theater productions.

(*see* **RETIREE BENEFITS**, *p. 3*)

His Is Really Voice of Experience

Dr. John D. Randall

Want to win some money? Just get some colleagues into an argument about which community college president in California has the most widely varied experience. Then put your money on Dr. John (Jack) Randall, Grossmont College Interim President.

Randall came to Grossmont in May and will occupy the president's office until next May.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Long Beach State, got his doctorate in education at U.S.C., then began his professional career as a mathematics instructor at Cerritos College. He was at Cerritos for 18 years, the last five as Vice President of Instruction. He then spent 14 years as Superintendent-President of Mt. San Antonio College.

He retired from Mt. San Antonio in 1991, but didn't quit working. He served as Interim Superintendent of Napa College; then Interim Superintendent-President of the College of Marin; Interim Superintendent-President of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District; Interim Provost of the Moreno Valley campus of Riverside Community College and just before coming to Grossmont, Vice President of Instruction at Mt. San Jacinto College.

During his tenure at Mt. San Antonio, he took a nine-month leave of absence to serve as Interim State Chancellor of the 106-college California Community College system.

He also got international experience as a visiting professor for the University of Southern California in Korea, and as consultant/instructor for the American College of Switzerland.

Dr. Randall told the Grapevine he sees Grossmont as a very good college, and he has no plan for major change. He thinks the committee system can stand some fine tuning and he hopes to forward campus facility plans, including the schedule for the construction of the Learning Resource Center in the library building.

He prizes his academic experience and honors, but probably his most cherished recognition is his election to the national Softball Hall of Fame. That followed eight years as a pitcher with the fast pitch Long Beach Nitehawks who won championships in the World International Fast Pitch Congress. Those glory days behind him, Dr. Randall contents himself with racquetball and golf, without eyeing the Hall of Fame in either sport.

Editor's Comments

by Tom Scanlan

As co-editor, one of my responsibilities is to alternate the writing of our editorial with the other co-editor, Pat Higgins. I checked the back issues and was surprised to find I haven't written one since the November, 1994 issue. How time flies!

It's been great having someone as competent as Pat produce and edit this newsletter for these past years. It will take some getting used to now that I have all these deadlines to face again, but with two of us the work is only half. After this year, quien sabe? Anyone out there secretly desirous of producing a newsletter? Fame and glory only a few typestrokes away! You could bring in the new millennium and our tenth anniversary issue at the same time (the first Grapevine was produced April, 1990).

Aside from the fact that I'm co-editing the Grapevine, this June is kind of special for me. I turned 65, which has meant lots of paperwork—Social Security, Medicare, loss of district life and health benefits, etc... But there's some good stuff, too. My youngest daughter Alison graduated from Cal State Fullerton on June 1 with an MS in Environmental Studies. I'm especially proud of her because she completed the entire degree program while working full time in the field of environmental auditing and assessment. And, *only minutes before this issue goes to press*, my oldest daughter, Karen, gave birth to her first child, Shelby Alison Frazier, at 3:14 a.m. on June 22. Wow!! My first grandchild—so now I'll be a 'grandpa'. A *grandpa*?!! (I wonder if smoking a pipe is still 'p.c.'? Time for a beard, maybe?)

Because I retired at a relatively young age, I expect that most of you out there reading this are chuckling and thinking 'been there, done that'. Tell me—is this another one of those 'passages'? I'm still having trouble dealing with the previous ones.

Travel Tip: Be A Courier

by Ray Resler

Gene Britt and I have found an economical way to get to the Orient—as couriers! There are several companies you can find going to various destinations; we use IBC Pacific (1-310-665-1760; ask for Yolanda).

For $495 round trip you can fly from LAX or San Francisco to Bangkok, or Manila, via Tokyo. If you can fly on less than a week's notice, it will cost $200. You must pay to get yourself to L.A. or S.F. All they require is that you travel with carry-aboard luggage only . (They use your luggage allowance.) You deliver their packages to Tokyo and—if any—your destination. You usually can stay at your destination for two weeks, but this is flexible.

From Bangkok it's an easy hop to Burma, Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam. From Manila, it's possible to fly domestic to many Philippine islands or to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. No expenses are paid by the courier company.

This has worked very well for us several times. You fly Northwest, and accumulate about 14,000 frequent flier miles.

Southeast Asia is a great bargain for U.S. dollars. In Vietnam you become an instant millionaire—$100 U.S. gets you a million dong!

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Biblio-Files Column
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Biblio-files

TomTales

by Tom Scanlan

Comparisons. It's often enlightening to compare two novels by the same author which were written at different times or under different circumstances. I enjoyed F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby when I first read it years ago but had been told it wasn't his best. In this column I compare his first novel with the novel many consider his best.

I've also been told that William Trevor is one of the best living writers in the English language so I chose a 'double novel' which he wrote rather recently.

And finally, for comparison, I include a review of an American version of much of what Depak Chopra was espousing in two of his books which I reviewed in the previous issue of Grapevine.

This Side of Paradise, F. Scott Fitzgerald (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1920)

***

This was Fitzgerald's first novel, published when he was only 24 years old. Fitzgerald had quit Princeton as an undergraduate and joined the Army. He worked on the manuscript while waiting to be shipped overseas. When armistice was declared he focused on completing the novel in the hopes that he'd then be able to marry Zelda Sayre. The novel was an instant success and he married Zelda eight days after it was published.

Although not his best known work today (The Great Gatsby has that honor), nor his best writing (Tender is the Night is usually considered his best), it was a timely novel about what would become known as 'the lost generation', that generation of young people who were disillusioned and disoriented by the horrors of World War I and the inability of governments to resolve their conflicts in a more expeditious and humane way.

The story is largely autobiographical. The protagonist is an undergraduate at Princeton, Amory Blaine, who's not sure what he wants to do with his life. Lessons learned in prep school no longer seem adequate. There's lots of partying and drinking. This was, after all, the time of Prohibition, which seemed to make drinking all the more fashionable,

(*see* **BIBLIO-FILES**, *p. 3*)

RETIREE BENEFITS *(cont. from p. 1)*

The district traditionally hosts a breakfast for all retirees during the week preceding fall classes and a luncheon for all emeriti during the spring semester. The district also pays for the production and mailing (each April, July and November) of the retiree newsletter, the GCCCD Grapevine, also available at the college website. The URL is **http://www.gcccd.cc.ca.us/grossmont/Publications/Publications.html**.

Free internet access and e-mail is available from home dial-up to retired faculty through the district and they can set up their own web page on the college server.

These benefits are comparable to benefits available in several other community college districts which I've contacted. For example, Cerritos College (only a few years older than Grossmont College)in the Los Angeles area has a retired faculty organization, founded in 1982, with 120 of their 175 retired faculty as dues- paying (only $5/year) members. They receive most of the same benefits listed above, although these benefits were mostly acquired over time at the rate of one or two new benefits each year. For their dues, members receive a newsletter and other mailed announcements. They have two non-hosted (you pay) luncheons each year, mostly for socializing but with a brief business meeting, announcements, etc. They have elected officers and a constitution and voting representatives on some committees with some campus office space available. The membership works with the district to obtain and maintain retiree benefits.

Pierce College, also in the Los Angeles area, is fifty years old and has a retiree organization called PEP, Pierce Emeriti Professors, with elected officers and a constitution. There are approximately 100 dues-paying ($10/year) members. The organization is only a few years old, but now has two luncheons each year, partly subsidized by dues. They produces a newsletter which includes a directory of members.

There is currently no retiree organization in our college district. In 1991-92 a small group of retirees attempted to form a Certificated Retiree's Organization but a mail poll showed there was not enough interest at that time. A small number of special interest groups were formed in 1990 in areas such as writing, but I'm not aware of any such groups still meeting now. No group of retirees is specifically assigned to such matters as sympathy or support to deal with illness or bereavement. Retiree matters are presently handled through the college district's Risk Management/Benefits office.

Interested retirees recently began meeting at 9 am the first Tuesday of every month at Coco's near Grossmont College for breakfast or coffee and informal conversation and camaraderie. With a growing number of retirees in our district (nearly 300), and a new chancellor and GC president soon to be selected, it may be time to once again consider forming some type of retiree's association. If you have suggestions or opinions on this topic, please send them to the Grapevine by letter, e-mail or phone.

Remembering Our Own...

Shirley Acheson succumbed to a long period of illness at her home in La Mesa early in March, 1998. She was one of the original staff that launched Grossmont College in 1961 on the Monte Vista High campus. At that time she was the fledgling college's only counselor. When the new college campus opened in 1964, she joined the Department of Behavioral Sciences where she taught psychology until her retirement in 1984.

She was a very private and soft-spoken person who nevertheless liked the company of other people. She often hosted TGIF at her home during the college's early years. After retirement she continued to enjoy people contacts at her boutique in Borrego.

Walter Whitmann, Jr., died on September 15, 1997, following an extensive period of rehabilitation. He was also one of the original staff which launched Grossmont College in 1961. He taught biology and botany in the Department of Biological Sciences until he left the district with a disability retirement in 1984. He chaired that department for most of his tenure.

Although many of us were unaware of the fact, Walt was largely responsible for the landscaping design of the Grossmont College campus, which to this day is in an inviting place to stroll. In addition to his expertise in plant biology, he was an accomplished pianist and was very knowledgeable in the field of popular music.

Willard Dellegar known as "Dell" to all his friends, died on May 21, 1998 in Lillian, Alabama, after a long illness with leukemia. He taught at Grossmont College from 1965 to 1987, serving as chairman of the Biomedical Technology Program for much of his tenure. He played a major role in developing a number of certificate programs in the field of health sciences technology and worked actively to see that program graduates were placed in jobs. After retiring from Grossmont College, he moved to Alabama, where he and his wife Charlotte published a monthly newsletter, The Spanish Cove Informer.

Dell's first career was a hitch in the Navy from 1936 to 1956. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the attack of December 7, 1941, at which time his own ship was sunk.

BIBLIO-FILES *(cont. from p. 2)*

especially among college students. Amory experiences several failed romantic relationships along the way and eventually his drinking becomes his undoing.

It's not a very uplifting book but then few 'coming of age' novels are. Still, it has the appeal of revealing and reflecting a period of history in our country which still influences much of our national culture. If you've read The Great Gatsby, this little novel will give you some insight into the author of that memorable story.

Tender is the Night, F. Scott Fitzgerald (Scribner's Sons, 1993) ***

This novel, considered Fitzgerald's best, was published in 1933 (my birthyear, incidentally). The story is mostly about a brilliant and charming young psychiatrist, Dick Driver, who marries one of his patients, Nicole—a beautiful but schizophrenic young woman. Nicole's mental health is quite fragile in their early years so she is dependent on Dick as both husband and therapist. To others, though, they seem to 'have it all'.

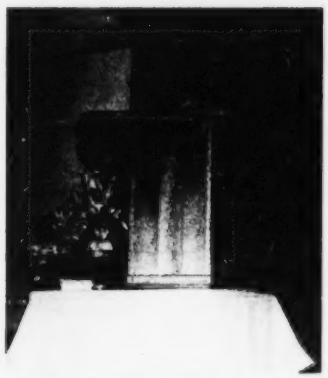
(*see* **BIBLIO-FILES**, *p. 6*)

Banquet for Retirees a Sellout

(All captions identify individuals from left to right.)

Pat Fleming, Susan Keller, Cathie Norris and Nick Nichelson

Lisa Scott and Lori Carver



Chuck Seymour, emcee (listen up, people!)

Barry Winn, Marilyn Marshall and Chuck Seymour

Barbara and Joe McMenamin, Pamela and Ben Newkirk

Jacquelyn Winn, Alba Orr and Lori Carver (Joe and Barbara McMenamin in background)

Juanita Ahlee, Janet Cohn and George Washington (first faculty to retire, 1976)

Charles and Jeanne Hyde and Sharon LaFollette

Ismo and Sirkka Huovila, Maria Zarcone and Mario Baeza

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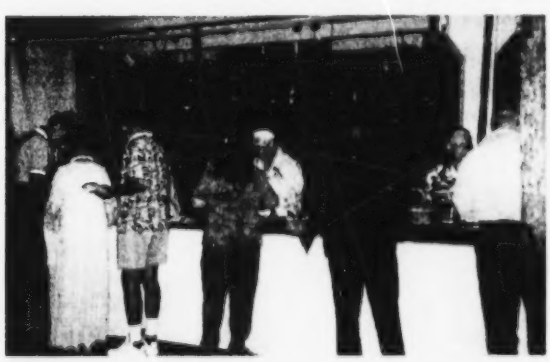
Charles Fraser, Yolanda Guerrero, Eve Lill, Rosemarie Scanlan, Judy Barkley and Katherine Faulconer

Randy Pogue, Mariann Nagel, David Laughlin, Tari Nagel, Nick and Sally Nichelson

John Shue and Trudy Bratten (dancing til' dawn)

Peter and Peg Hovde, Dana and Robert Quittner

Peggy Harmon, Bill Bornhorst, Wayne Harmon, Tom Scanlan and John Carter



The chow line. Yesss!!

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BIBLIO-FILES *(cont. from p. 3)*

A rising young starlet meets the couple at their home on the Riviera and becomes infatuated with this charming psychiatrist. The plot revolves around this threesome and how their lives are shaped by one another. With sometimes distracting flashbacks, each of the three tells a part of the story from their point of view.

As the story develops, it becomes clear that all three characters have serious psychological problems and that this story is not going to have a simple or necessarily happy ending. There are no heroes or villains, just the complications of vulnerable people seeking love and fulfillment within a sub-culture that is often shallow and cynical. There is a classic role-reversal, wherein Nicole becomes independent and happier, and Dick becomes dependent (on alcohol) and depressed.

Two Lives, William Trevor (Viking Penguin, 1991) ***

This book, which was nominated for the Booker Award, is in fact two separate novels, even though it was published under the single title of Two Lives. The separate novels are Reading Turgenev and My House in Umbria. What they have in common is that they are the stories of two women, each marked by the loss or absence of love, who escape into literature.

In Reading Turgenev, an Irish country girl Mary Dallon is pressured into a loveless marriage with a shopkeeper twice her age. He lives above his shop with two sisters who disapprove of his new wife. Unable to consummate the marriage, he begins to drink and his sisters make Mary's life even more miserable. She falls in love with a sickly cousin who reads her Russian novels during their secret meetings. When he dies, she is institutionalized for 'madness' when it appears that she might be attempting to poison the sisters and the husband she does not love. There's a delightful surprise ending which reveals the true nature of her 'madness'.

The second novel is set in Italy, where Emily Delahunty, a woman who was abused in childhood and later became a prostitute now writes formula romance novels in a countryside villa, which she also rents out as a pension. She is injured while riding in a train bombed by terrorists and befriends the other survivors of the explosion while recovering in the hospital. They all move to her pension to convalesce and a number of surprises soon develop.

I much preferred the first story, but each one entertains because Trevor has pulled you into the story and made you care about his characters.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff..., Richard Carlson, Ph.D. (Hyperion, 1997) ***

As I was with Chopra's books, I was at first very skeptical about this little gem (it's still a best seller). Just another New Age, self-help, feel-good book which already fill too many shelves in bookstores today. I probably would never have read it if my wife hadn't been so insistent (thank you, Rosemarie)—and that would have been my loss.

The book consists of 100 two-to-three page 'chapters', which can be read at random and at any time when you have a few minutes free. The chapter titles give you a pretty good idea what to expect. *Make peace with imperfection. Surrender to the fact that life isn't fair. Choose being kind over being right. Think of what you have instead of what you want. Get comfortable not knowing.* Advice or suggestions that we've all heard before, but Carlson has a way of stating them simply and in very practical terms. It's especially good advice for the 'A-types' among us who sometimes forget to stop and smell the roses. There's plenty of wisdom and compassion in this little book—and it's served up in a manner that many of you might prefer to Chopra's.

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GCCCD Grapevine

Volume 8, Number 3 November, 1998

Chicago Administrator Picked As New GCCCD Chancellor

Dr. Omero Suarez

Dr. Omero Suarez, Deputy Chancellor with the City of Chicago Community College System, is the new District Chancellor succeeding Jeanne Atherton who retired in June.

Dr. Suarez was chosen by the District Board on a 4-0 vote August 18, winning the post over Cuyamaca College President Sherrill Amador, finalist in the search to fill the District top post. Dr. Suarez signed a three-year contract paying $138,000 yearly, effective October 1. He'll have about 800 employees from Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges and a combined student body of about 22,000 to supervise.

It's hoped by some College and District leaders that campus calm, not always evident in the past several years, may be something Dr. Suarez can achieve. Trustee Ron Kraft said everybody the trustees had talked with mentioned the new Chancellor's ability to stay calm. Mel Amov, president of the United Faculty union said, "Since we need to get a fresh perspective, we can't think of anyone more qualified."

Prior to going to Chicago, Dr. Suarez was president of East Los Angeles College, a unit of the L.A. Community College District. His doctorate in higher education is from the University of Oklahoma.

Lee and Barbara Roper are frequent travelers. Lee passed along some counsel growing out of their trip through Turkey.

Don't Rent a Car

by Lee Roper

Lee Roper

Barb and I spent 3 weeks this past April traveling in Turkey. It was a different experience because we traveled by **public transportation**. We used lots of cabs, mini-buses, boats and planes, but mostly we went by first class bus. In third world countries, buses are inexpensive and have very frequent departures to your destination. The coaches are nearly all shiny and comfortable Mercedes Benz equipment.

The difference begins the moment you step inside the bus station. Along one wall will be an endless row of small booths of various bus companies. Of the numerous men working behind the counter, someone always speaks English. Soon you will find the company that is ready to leave for your next destination.

If departure from the gate doesn't agree with the time on your Rolex, then your Rolex needs adjusting. Once the bus is underway, the driver's assistant will come around with the bottle of rose water for you to clean your hands. Soon after that he serves tea or coffee and a snack (no peanuts). There is a rest stop every 2 hours. If need be, you might want to consider the June Alison solution since "you have a lot of living to do."

The train system was only recommended on the main route between Istanbul and Ankara. The other routes are known to have long delays. Well dressed business men joined us on our domestic flight on Turkish Airlines. It too was efficient and on time.

Because of the reasonable and efficient public transport, you can avoid the guided package tours. The country is exotic, beautiful, historical, accommodations were charming, clean and reasonable, food is healthy but most of all the Turkish people are most kind and hospitable. We highly recommend this well kept travel secret.

New Academic Calendar Available

The 1998-99 Academic Calendar for GCCCD is now available. It lists the academic and cultural activities at both colleges through the summer of 1999. Calendars are available from Lori Carver in the Risk Management and Benefits office.

Important Notice to All Retirees

The Retiree Directory of July, 1998, included some out-of-date addresses and omitted some individuals who would like to have been listed. In the interest of privacy, only those retirees who expressed their wish to be listed in the directory at the time they retired have been included. If you are not listed and would like to be, or if your listed address is no longer current, or if there are any other errors or omissions (for example, you can also list your e-mail address), please contact Lori Carver. She can be reached by phone at (619) 644-7710; e-mail at Lori_Carver@gcccd.cc.ca.us; or by regular mail at the Office of Risk Management, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.

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Editor's Comments

by Pat Higgins

So far as I know, this is the a last time I'll write this column. He hasn't definitely said yes, but I'm confident that Tom Scanlan will again become editor, as he was during the Grapevine's early days. As before, he'll keep the Grapevine interesting and informative; that will be good for this newsletter and its readers. But Tom feels, as I do, that being editor in perpetuity isn't an objective to seek. So if you think you'd like to try your hand, let Tom know; perhaps you can start as associate editor, and after a year or two become editor. Who knows? You may a born editor.

# # # # #

One ought to have some great thoughts to put into a farewell column but I don't. My stock of great thoughts seems to have dwindled, at least temporarily. As I write this, in September, the Starr report is still in the spotlight, and I have plenty of angry and sad thoughts prompted by Bill Clinton, Ken Starr, Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp, and others who've brought the country to the pain it's now feeling. At the moment I can't think of anything good that will come of this lousy experience in the way of learning for the future. But maybe good will come of which we're unaware—some successor of Clinton using the brains God gave him and steering clear of entangling encounters with willing women, whatever their ages. And perhaps some Independent Counsel—if the breed still exists—will have the sensitivity and judgment to shun temptation to make his official report an X-rated tale, when a G or PG can as adequately inform the citizens who need to know. I say that, despite Starr's protestations that he needed the word-by-word details to prove Clinton lied.

See **EDITOR** on p. 6

Biblio-files

by Tom Scanlan

Most of you have probably read or at least heard of the latest list of '100 best novels' compiled by Random House's Modern Library this July. For whatever reason, many of us find such lists interesting because it gives us a chance to see if we've been reading the novels that someone else thinks are important. This particular list has generated lots of controversy, not only for what it includes, and how they are ranked, but also for what it omits. The top 10 novels on the list are:

1. ULYSSES by James Joyce
2. THE GREAT GATSBY by F. Scott Fitzgerald
3. A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN by James Joyce
4. LOLITA by Vladimir Nabokov
5. BRAVE NEW WORLD by Aldous Huxley
6. THE SOUND AND THE FURY by William Faulkner
7. CATCH-22 by Joseph Heller
8. DARKNESS AT NOON by Arthur Koestler
9. SONS AND LOVERS by D.H. Lawrence
10. THE GRAPES OF WRATH by John Steinbeck

Well, how many of these have you read? Does this challenge you to finally sit down and try James Joyce one more time? And what is Catch-22 doing in the company of those other top ten? And where is (name your favorite)?!

Like all such lists, this one has its limitations. It's limited to books written this century in English, so it clearly does not include the very best novels of all time. The panel which produced this list is also rather limited, being made up of a mere dozen historians, writers and critics, though some are quite distinguished (e.g., Maya Angelou, Shelby Foote, Arthur Schlessinger, Jr., William Styron, and Gore Vidal).

What good is such a list? In my opinion, this list serves best to generate discussion and thought about which novels are best and why. It might just get some of us to read a novel that we'd heard of and maybe had been meaning to read but never quite got around to it. I would *not* use it as a strict guide to novels that you *should* read.

The entire list of novels and the full panel can be found on the internet at:

http://www.randomhouse.com/modernlibrary/100best/

or in any library in the July issues of newspapers, Newsweek, etc..

Lee Roper has read a couple of books recently by Stephen Ambrose which he highly recommends to the rest of us. One is Citizen Soldiers, an account of the U.S. Army's march from Normandy through the Battle of the Bulge to the final defeat of Germany in World War II as told from the point of view of the common soldier instead of the military historians or generals. It is still on the

See **BIBLIO-FILES** on p. 6

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Letter, Pictures Wipe Out 50 Years

Lee Engelhorn

What happens if you're suddenly brought face-to-face with a terrifying bit of your life more than 50 years later?

Lee Engelhorn, retired G.C. geography instructor, says he was "traumatized" when he got a letter from Austria in August, with pictures of remains of his B-24 which was shot down over the Southern Alps during a bombing mission in August, 1944 (Grapevine, April, 1995). There also was a picture of a cross, marking the burial site of one of Lee's friends who didn't escape the bomber crash.

The pictures gave Lee his first sight of the plane's remains and the burial cross. He had bailed out and landed on a neighboring mountain, from which he couldn't see the plane go down.

The letter and pictures came from Gerd Leitner, who runs an outdoor recreation store, called Intersport, in the village of Ehrwald. Leitner wrote that he had been 7 at the time of the air battle in which Engelhorn's plane had been shot down, and that he'd never expected to know any of the combatants. He'd been told of Engelhorn by an Englishman named Keith Bullock, who'd moved to Austria and over a period of time had been researching aspects of World War II. With cooperation from the U.S. Department of Defense, he'd contacted Lee, who gave Bullock information about the plane, its crew and their fates.

Bullock, incidentally, said he'd recently met the motorcycle driver who'd taken Lee from the village of Strach to the village of Imst for medical treatment, soon after Lee had been captured, ending his 18-day walk toward Switzerland, after bailing out of the doomed airplane.

In Leitner's letter, he said he'd been to the crash and burial sites a number of times. Parts of the plane had been removed but the pictures showed that chunks of the armament were intact after 54 years, as was part of the left wing and part of the front steering wheel.

Leitner indicated that the burial and erection of the iron cross had been the work of German soldiers soon after the crash. Engelhorn knows the downed airman was Lawrence Hamilton, one of two crew members who were unable to get out when the plane was shot down.

Lee, no longer traumatized, says he'd like now to visit Ehrwald, the crash site and the grave of this friend, but de doesn't know whether he'll ever make it.

Last spring, Bob and Virginia Steinbach, with five other Americans, took an extended trip to Australia. A highlight was a 10-day flying tour, described here.

Fast Way for Long Way

by Bob Steinbach

Bob Steinbach

Lilydale Air Services recently flew 5 Yanks and an Aussie on a delightful 10-day tour to South Australia which included destinations not on the usual tourist track for overseas visitors—Lake Mungo, Arkaroola in the northern Flinders Ranges, a sheep station on the Murray, Kangaroo Island and Adelaide.

After leaving Lilydale an the Yarra Valley, the air was crystal clear and smooth and because we stayed at 1500 ft., we had a terrific view. We crossed the Murray and reached Lake Mungo Lodge strip on a very hot day. Our guide, Tony Fleet from Mildura, took us into Mungo National Park and onto the fascinating and fragile western sand lunette known as "The Walls of China." The afternoon flight to Arkaroola took us to 7500 feet to avoid some of the bumpy air. In spite of being remote, Arkaroola Village has a range of accommodations and tourist facilities. The highlight for me was the spectacular Ridge Top 4WD tour with fabulous vistas but the night sky viewed at the impressive Observatory was a little confusing for travellers from the northern hemisphere.

Two days later our departure was delayed as our pilot decided that the short strip, very hot weather, altitude and unfavorable breeze required that our aircraft had to be flown to nearby "Balcanoona" before loading luggage and passengers. Our next stopover, "Portee" station on the Murray River just south of Blanchetown, turned out to be the highlight of the trip. The station's airstrip is adjacent to the homestead and our host arrived in his ex-Woomera rocket launcher before we had finished unloading. The superbly restored homestead on along billabong adjacent to the Murray is surrounded by lush grounds. Ian, his wife Margaret, and daughter Susan, made us feel very much at home and provided excellent meals and service. here was plenty of time to relax and listen to the hundreds of corellas and parrots. We were also taken for a boat trip along the billabong, went wombat watching (we saw four) and saw the day-to-day activities of a working sheep station.

The weather turned cool on Kangaroo Island, but we endeavored to see and do as much as we could in four days—the seals and sea lions were a great sight. Our operational base was "The Rookery" at Emu Bay, a larger comfortable cottage—even the cooking was fun—but it took us a while to get used to the strange outside night noises—penguin chatter from burrows in the garden!

Warrawond Sanctuary in the Adelaide Hills provided another unique experience as we slept in luxury tents and took evening and dawn guided walks through the extensive grounds. We saw many endangered native Australian animals such as bettongs and totoroos in their own habitat—but the platypuses remained out of sight.

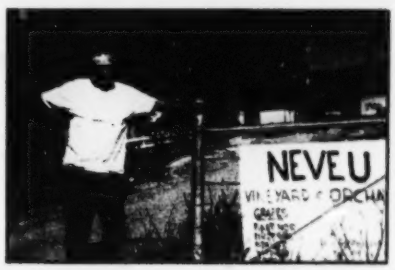
When time is short, an aerial safari is definitely the way to see Australia—

See **FAST WAY**, p. 5

Neveu Finds Nirvana in Grapevines

by Tom Scanlan

Just a few miles outside of the small village of Montague, California, Rosemarie and I turned off the winding, two-lane country road and pulled into a driveway crowded with farm implements, a pick-up and two large but friendly dogs. We'd stopped to visit one of our fellow retirees who is toiling to make a dream come true.



Ernie Neveu, retired professor of biology from Grossmont College is growing apples, peaches, cherries and pears—and on a much larger scale—several varieties of wine grapes. That first afternoon he gave us the 'grand tour'. His orchards and vineyards are planted on gently sloping land on the west side of Shasta Valley, facing a spectacular panoramic view of three snow-capped peaks, the largest being Mt. Shasta. On these 27 acres, Ernie has planted 400 apple trees (Fuji and Gala) as well as a smaller number of cherry, peach and pear trees. Most of the land, however, is covered by nearly 5000 grapevines, the majority in their first year of growth. These include 2000 pinot noirs and 2000 pinot gris, and he's experimenting with 80 vines of each of merlot and zinfandel. But he also has 700 vines of pinot noir which are now three years old and from which he'll produce his first batch of wine this fall.

Ernie & Mary Ann Neveu

We enjoyed that evening exchanging pictures and touring the nearby historically charming town of Yreka. The sight we awoke to the next morning was spectacular. Mount Shasta seemed to fill half the morning sky.

Ernie and his wife Mary Ann live in a two-story farm house built in 1915. Along with his many farm chores, Ernie also spends what time he can spare modernizing and repairing their home. Seven days a week. This may not sound like a 'retirement' but Ernie seems to thrive on the activity and he has truly undertaken a second life. In fact, he is a pioneer of sorts. His is the first vineyard of consequence in this region and his wine will be one of the region's first. Furthermore, his example has inspired some of his neighbors to try their hand at growing wine grapes, and Ernie had functioned as the local consultant-expert. He has incorporated some of the latest techniques of viticulture and his vineyards show it.

His hard work and knowledge has paid off. A good quantity of Gala apples have already been harvested and placed in cold storage, with more to follow. In the vineyards, more good news. The sugar levels in both the Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir were higher than expected so they could be harvested several weeks ahead of the time when Oregon growers harvest. It was harvest time for the grapes! The big day was Saturday, September 26. I'll let Ernie tell you about it in his own words.

"Wow, what a harvest!!! We started at 6:00 am it was still too dark to see well enough so we drank coffee to warm up to the 38°F chilly wind. 15 brave souls turned up to cut, crush and stomp. The Pinot noir came out at 23.8 Brix and the Pinot gris was 21.4. The flavor of the must was great. We harvested 89 pounds of Pinot gris (which will turn out to be about 5 gal of finished wine) and 658 lbs of Pinot noir (about 55+ gals of finished wine) We actually stomped the Pinot gris with bare feet and believe me it took brave ones to jump in that tub with 35°F clusters. I will be sending you photos Monday by express mail. Really wish you could have been here, it was such a good time, regardless of how the wine turns out."

I wish we could have been there, too. Ernie really does seem to have found his Nirvana among those grapevines. Ernie can be contacted by e-mail at: ernvine@inreach.com, by telephone at (530) 459-3906, by fax at (530) 459-0258, or by letter at Neveu Vineyards and Orchards, 4839 Ager Road, Montague, CA 96064-9524.

The vineyards in late June

Retirees Join Regular Staff at Professional Development Luncheon

Twenty-six retirees joined a group of about 125 regular Grossmont College employees at the Fall Professional Development luncheon on Monday, August 17, at the Grossmont College Student Center. The luncheon provided an unusual opportunity for retirees to talk with non-retired colleagues as well as fellow retirees, and vice versa. Because few attending the luncheon realized that both retired and regular employees would be lunching together, there were numerous queries such as "Aren't you retired now?" and the reply, "Aren't you retired *yet*?!!" And the retirees could always chuckle and say, "You mean you had to *pay* for your lunch?" This joint luncheon was first and seemed to work out pretty well.

College for Seniors Program Focuses on Spring Offerings

With a successful fall session more than half finished, College for Seniors leaders are discussing what programs will be offered during the coming spring semester.

Diana Kelly, Cuyamaca College Associate Dean, with GC retirees Lee Hoffman and Erv Metzgar, want to present—and possibly produce—classes that will interest, and perhaps help older persons who will be the student participants in the sessions. For example, among the classes approved for the fall schedule are a writing workshop at Cuyamaca, a discussion of Personal and Financial Decisions and Survival, also at Cuyamaca, a look at "Hollywood, Then and Now: The Golden Age," and "Shakespeare for Fun" at Grossmont.

Under consideration for spring is a history of the U.S. military, which would include first-hand experiences of veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam or Desert Storm. Politics and government would be the menu for a Town Hall program which might include County Supervisor Diane Jacob and La Mesa Mayor Art Madrid. In such a program, student feedback would be encouraged, with all sides of questions being examined.

Other possibilities for spring include "Acting for Seniors," "The Unusual History of San Diego," "Recording Your Life and Writing Your Autobiography," "Travel Experience Swap Meet," and one with the intriguing title of "Very Short Course," to be taught by District faculty retirees.

If you have ideas for subjects you think would be good to go into the College for Seniors curriculum, or if you'd like to teach some of the material that will be offered, let your wishes be known. Phone Dean Kelly at Cuyamaca College, 660-4355, or Lee Hoffman at 442-6879.

FAST WAY cont. from p. 3

this was my third such tour with Lilydale Air Services. My friends and I worked out the itinerary to cover places not visited before and LAS most obligingly provided the flying! All these destinations are within an easy flying distance from Lilydale and I recommend that you visit them.

♦ ♦ ♦

Grapevine has a new web address for those of you who wish to read it on-line: **http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/grapevine/grapevine.html**

Send Us a Letter

This newsletter offers a unique opportunity to stay in touch with other retirees. The editors of Grapevine would like to encourage more letters from readers, telling us about anything which you believe our readers would find interesting. You can e-mail us at **tscanlan@mail.gcccd.cc.ca.us** or write us at: The GCCCD Grapevine, Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.

First Tuesday at Coco's

Just a reminder that you can enjoy conversation with other retirees in a very informal and comfortable setting over coffee or a full breakfast at Coco's (at the intersection of Navajo and Fanita) at 9 a.m on the first Tuesday of each month. Coco's has been reserving the rear room for our group, which varies in size from five to a dozen or more.

New Committee to Address Retiree Concerns/Perks

An ad-hoc committee to consist of several classified and certificated retirees and chaired by Chuck Seymour, Director of Risk Management/Benefits, will be convened to address retiree issues. The committee will meet only as needed. **If you'd like to serve on this committee or if you have specific concerns which you'd like to submit, please contact Lori Carver as soon as possible** at (619) 644-7710; or by e-mail at Lori_Carver@gcccd.cc.ca.us; or by regular mail at: Risk Management/Benefits Office, Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020, Attention: Lori Carver.

Goodie Table

A reminder to all retirees: This year's Christmas get-together is scheduled for December 11. You are welcome to join the faculty and staff of Grossmont College at the "goodie table" in the Griffin Gate on December 11. Breakfast at 9 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share with at least 6 people (or donation of $5.00 will be accepted). Call Alba at the College, ext. 7623, if you need more information.

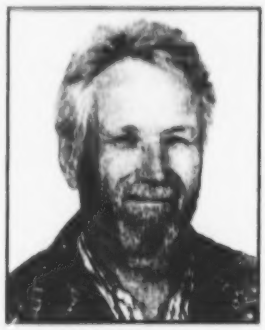
New Emeriti Announced

Professor Emeritus status was conferred on retired Grossmont College professors **Dr. William Givens, Wayne Harmon, Joanne Prescott** and **Don Shannon** at the June 2 Governing Board meeting.

Dr. William Givens

Wayne Harmon

Joanne Prescott



Don Shannon

EDITOR cont. from p. 2

But angry as I get, I know this too will pass and better time will come. We'll have a President, whoever he or she may be. Starr will fade back into obscurity, and the nation will exist. We'll perhaps have time and inclination to think great thoughts. Sorry you won't be able then to read all the great thoughts which occupy my mind.

# # # # #

I'll finish by telling you of three things I've read recently which took thought out of my head but prompted it to shake. First, I had a brochure recently from Northwestern University, my alma mater, describing a trip sponsored by the school's alumni association. One of the trip's best features, according to the brochure would be the "camaraderie" among the travelers. Somehow it's always seemed a greater sin for mistakes to come from educational institutions than from institutions whose product isn't learning.

Then I was in a nurses' clinic waiting to get a shot, and picked up a copy of Redbook magazine. As I looked through the advertisements, I came on an ad with two facing pages. The message was about a product to control a problem plaguing many women. The benefit was control, so on the first page, by itself, was one prominent word—contol. I shudder when I think of what went on in the ad agency's board room when the executives saw that ad and realized it had gone out to thousands or hundreds of thousands of Redbook readers.

Finally, I've always been an admirer of single-person or group achievements in the Women's Movement. Occasionally though, I read about something beyond any woman or group of women, and I wonder about the man, in this case, who wrote it. This was in a newspaper review of the film, "Firelight," and the reviewer was describing the goodness of the feminine protagonist. She was so good-hearted, he said, that she agreed to sire a child for a wealthy landowner. Sire?

As Walter Winchell used to say, that's 30 for now.

# # # # #

Oh, yes, let me once again give my thanks to Sirkka, the production expert, and John, our photographer. They've been the best.

BIBLIO-FILES cont. from p. 2

TomTales

New York Times Best Sellers list of Nonfiction. The other Ambrose book he recommends is Undaunted Courage, an account of Lewis and Clark's exploration of the West (written after Ambrose and his family and some students had retraced the journey themselves). It is on the NY Times nonfiction best sellers list, paperback. Lee also recommends Paul Johnson's History of the American People, because it provides a view of our history from our roots in Europe right up to the present from the perspective of an 'outsider' (Johnson is an Englishman), and in less than 1000 pages. Lee admits a strong preference for nonfiction over fiction because he finds it just as entertaining and it has the added advantage of informing the reader about the world and other people.

I'll limit my own recommendations to just two books this time.

See **BIBLIO-FILES**, p. 7

BIBLIO-FILES cont. from p. 6

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1997) ****

This novel, a National Book Award winner, has been on the NY Times Fiction Bestsellers list for over a year now. It's been highly praised as a modern (well, Civil War era) version of the Odyssey because much of the story is about a wounded Confederate soldier, Inman, who finds the war too horrible and pointless and has deserted, setting out on foot to return to his home and sweetheart in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The journey is not only long but it is filled with obstacles, mostly human. In places, it is very grim. In other places, he finds help and sympathy that keep him going and add warmth to the story. A parallel plot, unfolding in alternate chapters, tells how his sweetheart, Ada and other wives and sweethearts of soldiers who have been left behind, often on their own, must eke out a living amidst the devastation and pillaging and shortages that accompanied this war. In the end, I concluded that it is the women who are the true heroes of this story. It's a powerful novel, one of the best I've read in some time.

The Stone Diaries, Carol Shields (Viking Press, 1993) ***

This Pulitzer winning novel tells the story of a woman's entire life, from birth to death. It is told with a series of anecdotes and letters from Daisy Goodwill, her friends and her family. There's a mix of tragedy and humor which make an otherwise ordinary woman a character you become interested in and sympathetic with and want to know more about as the novel progresses. Because of the unusual writing style with lots of changes in the point of view I found the first part of the novel required some patience, but it all comes together soon, and by the end of the book I looked back on a reading experience that I'd recommend to anyone interested in the 'human condition'.

Marie Sweadner, Retired GC English Teacher Dies

Marie Sweadner, who retired from Grossmont College in 1985, died on October 8, 1998. She had joined the English Department at Grossmont College in 1964, the year the new campus opened. She taught Introduction to Literature and Technical Writing. Prior to coming to Grossmont College she had worked as a technical writer at Convair Astronautics.

She is remembered in her department as a soft-spoken but very dedicated teacher who held her students to a high standard. Her experience in the San Diego aerospace industry made her technical writing classes especially interesting and relevant.

Jack Lynch Succumbs to Asbestosis

Jack Lynch died on October 16 following six months of illness from the severe respiratory effects of asbestosis. He had been exposed to asbestos in 1942 while in the Coast Guard working on a damaged ship, the USS Sterope. He is survived by his wife, Hazel and three daughters.

Jack taught English for many years at El Cajon High School before coming to Grossmont College in 1964, where he taught in the English department until his retirement in 1982. According to his colleagues, Jack did a marvelous job of introducing college English, and his students were consequently quite fond of him.

He was an avid reader. One of his favorite writers was Ernest Hemingway, so much so that on a sabbatical to Paris, he took the time to visit many of Hemingway's old haunts in that city.

Jack was a frequent contributor of poetry to the local El Cajon Californian (previously Daily Californian) newspaper. He wrote a great deal of poetry, some of which he published in a 1992 book, A Dream of Condors. The following poem is from that book, and reveals the naturalist in Jack as well as his inquisitive and gentle soul.

The Call

I meant to do my work today
but a strange bird called from a
distant tree
and the path though choked with
new mown hay
led toward the woods and mystery

And though I did not know the way
nor where the path might carry me,
I did not hesitate to go
for something within me seemed to know
my only error would be to stay

And so I left without a word
to anyone, but what could I say?
that I awoke because I heard
from the furtherest woods
a strange bird sing
and an unused path looked promising?

***

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